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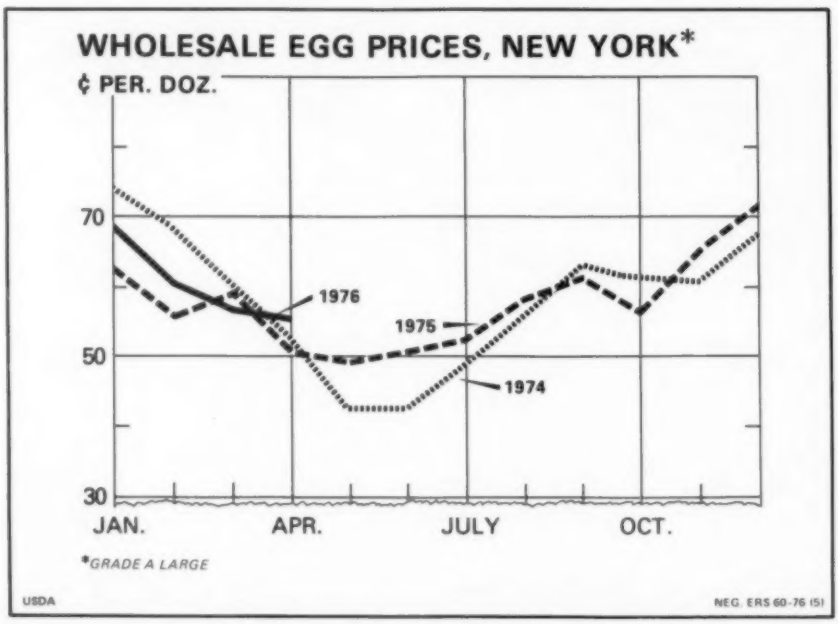
POULTRY AND EGG Situation

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Table 1—Poultry and Egg Situation at a Glance

Item	Unit	1975				1976			
		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.
		Eggs							
Farm production	Mil. eggs	5,560	5,001	5,514	5,301	5,518	5,191	5,557	5,325
Average number of layers on farms	Mil.	285	282	280	276	280	280	277	273
Rate of lay per layer	No.	19.5	17.7	19.7	19.2	19.7	18.6	20.0	19.5
Price received by farmers	Ct. per doz.	57.2	54.1	54.1	47.4	62.2	59.8	54.1	53.4
14 Metro areas price									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	67.8	62.5	64.2	55.8	73.3	67.4	62.4	62.0
Retail price (BLS)									
Grade A large	Ct. per doz.	84.2	83.9	74.9	77.2	89.1	90.1	78.2	77.6
Price paid for laying feed	Dol. per ton	160	151	143	146	143	143	145	144
Egg-feed price ratio	Pounds	7.2	7.2	7.6	6.5	8.7	8.4	7.5	7.4
Stocks, first of month:									
Shell	Thous. cases	36	32	48	32	22	13	21	26
Frozen	Mil. lb.	54.2	52.1	51.0	46.7	36.3	31.7	28.7	29.3
Replacement chicks hatched	Mil.	34.8	36.6	45.4	47.4	35.7	39.2	49.1	50.8
		Poultry							
Federally inspected slaughter, cert.									
Broilers	Mil. lb.	646.2	570.2	616.6	688.3	712.3	632.3	771.9	
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	64.9	47.1	54.4	68.7	76.3	61.7	68.6	
Price at farm, live weight									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	23.8	24.3	23.5	23.2	24.3	25.2	24.4	23.7
Chicken, excluding broilers	Ct. per lb.	8.9	9.4	9.7	8.5	11.8	12.8	12.8	11.2
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	32.4	31.2	30.7	29.4	33.6	32.1	32.5	31.6
9-city wholesale broiler price	Ct. per lb.	41.6	41.4	40.7	40.1	41.9	42.7	41.9	41.0
Retail price (BLS)									
Broilers	Ct. per lb.	59.3	58.6	58.8	57.6	63.6	61.4	60.8	60.7
Turkeys	Ct. per lb.	69.2	71.6	70.4	69.0	76.6	75.0	73.5	74.4
Broiler-feed price	Dol. per ton	176	167	161	164	158	160	160	159
Broiler-feed price ratio	Pounds	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0
Turkey-feed price	Dol. per lb.	178	168	161	165	165	165	165	162
Turkey-feed price ratio	Pounds	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9
Stocks, first of month:									
Broilers, fryers, roasters	Mil. lb.	37.2	31.5	32.9	28.0	22.3	20.2	19.4	18.9
Turkeys	Mil. lb.	275.0	267.1	239.9	207.3	195.2	187.1	159.9	140.0
Total poultry	Mil. lb.	456.2	438.2	407.3	366.8	313.6	299.5	269.9	250.3
Average weekly placement of broiler chicks in 21 States	Mil.	54.5	57.1	59.3	60.7	60.2	61.5	66.3	68.3



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SUMMARY

Broiler and turkey meat output this summer will continue well above a year ago while egg output may be only slightly larger. Broiler and turkey markets may show a small seasonal price increase, but prices are not expected to match those of a year earlier. Prospects are for egg prices to increase seasonally during the second half of 1976 and average near a year ago.

This year's egg production was up about 1 percent through April. The increase reflects the extra day in February (due to leap year) and a higher rate of lay; layer numbers were down 1 percent. On May 1 layer numbers were still 1 percent below May 1, 1975.

The size of the laying flock likely will increase relative to 1975 after midyear as more replacement pullets become available. Egg-type chicks hatched during January-April for laying flock replacements this summer and early fall were up 6 percent from 1975. In additon, large numbers of old layers were again force molted this spring. The second half rate of lay also will likely continue to run above a year earlier. Thus, egg production during the second half of 1976 is expected to average 1 to 2 percent above the reduced levels of last year.

Wholesale egg prices dropped as expected after Easter but less than normal. Prices strengthened unexpectedly in late April and early May as market egg supplies tightened. The lag in egg supplies likely resulted from a large number of old layers being force molted immediately after Easter, an increase in breaking activity, and the destruction by fire in late April of an entire egg production complex of over 1 million layers in South Carolina. Wholesale prices for Grade A large eggs at New York advanced to 63 cents a dozen by May 11, before turning down again to average 52 cents a dozen on May 25. Egg prices likely will increase seasonally this summer and may average near or slightly below year-earlier levels during the second half of 1976.

Broiler meat output in federally inspected plants during January-March rose 15 percent above 1975 to record levels. Broilers marketed were up 14 percent and the average liveweight gained 1 percent. Weekly slaughter and chick placement reports indi-

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cate that April-June output will be up around 12 percent. And the number of eggs currently being placed in incubators indicate producers plan to maintain production at well above 1975 through the remainder of 1976. However, the increase over 1975 likely will narrow some after midyear.

Wholesale broiler prices in 9 cities during January-April averaged about 42 cents a pound but the weekly price ranged from a low of 39 cents to a high of nearly 45 cents. Prices likely will show a small seasonal increase during the summer but may still only average in the low to mid-40's. Price rises will be limited by large broiler supplies and larger than year-earlier supplies of competing meats.

Price prospects for broiler producers, likely will be a little less favorable next fall if total supplies of competing pork and beef become more plentiful at the time consumer demand weakens seasonally. Historical relationships and expected prices of competing meats indicate wholesale broiler prices of 38-40 cents if broiler output is increased around 8 percent (as now seems probable). The same relationship would indicate that if per capita broiler meat consumption were to hold at the same level as in October-December 1975, the 9-city price for broilers would be expected to average 42-44 cents a pound, compared with 45 cents a year earlier.

Turkey output in federally inspected plants through March was up 24 percent, a 19-percent advance in numbers and a 5-percent gain in average weights. Output will continue well above a year ago but the percentage increase will drop sharply after midyear.

New York wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys during January-March averaged 49.5 cents a pound, nearly 1 cents above a year earlier. Prices weakened in April but have strengthened in recent weeks and should average near the first quarter in April-June. Prices likely will strengthen in coming months and average in the low to mid-50-cent-range during the summer and fall. Larger turkey production and larger supplies of competing meats will hold turkey prices below year-earlier levels during the balance of 1976.

Egg, Poultry, and Livestock Production and changes from a year earlier

	1975				1976			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II[1]	III[1]	IV[1]
Eggs (Mil. cases)	44.7	44.3	44.6	45.2	45.2	(44.5)	(45.3)	(46.1)
Percent change	-4	-5	-1	0	+1	+0.5	+1.5	+2
Broiler[2] (Mil. lbs.)	1,833	2,061	2,080	1,992	2,116	(2,310)	(2,310)	(2,150)
Percent change	-6	-2	+1	+11	+15	+12	+11	+8
Turkeys[2] (Mil. lbs.)	166	289	625	635	207	(360)	(680)	(670)
Percent change	-23	-18	-7	+7	+24	+25	+9	+6
Beef[3] (Mil. lbs.)	5,842	5,593	5,942	6,296	6,491	(6,100)	(6,100)	(6,200)
Percent change	+8	-1	+3	+5	+11	+9	+3	-2
Pork[3] (Mil. lbs.)	3,044	2,923	2,512	2,835	2,895	(2,900)	(2,900)	(3,200)
Percent change	-10	-17	-23	-17	-5	-1	+15	+13

Egg, Poultry, and Livestock Prices

	1975				1976			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II[1]	III[1]	IV[1]
Eggs, New York[4] (Cents/dozen)	59.0	50.0	57.4	64.7	61.8	(54-56)	(57-59)	(61-63)
Broiler, 9-City[5] (Cents/lb.)	41.2	43.7	50.3	45.1	42.2	(41-43)	(42-44)	(38-40)
Turkeys, New York[6] (Cents/lb.)	48.6	51.1	57.1	56.0	49.5	(48-50)	(51-53)	(52-54)
Choice Steers, Omaha (Dollars/100 lbs.)	35.7	48.0	48.6	46.0	38.7	(42-44)	(46-48)	(44-46)
Barrows and Gilts, 7 Markets (Dol./100 lbs.)	39.4	46.1	58.8	52.2	48.0	(47-49)	(46-48)	(42-44)

[1] Forecast. [2] Federally inspected Slaughter. [3] Commercial Production. [4] Wholesale, Grade A large white. [5] Wholesale weighted average. [6] Wholesale, 8-16 pound young hens.

POULTRY AND EGG SITUATION

FACTORS AFFECTING POULTRY INDUSTRY

General Economy Favorable

Current developments and prospects for poultry and egg markets are being strongly supported by a strengthening general economy and increased consumer buying. Gains in consumers' disposable incomes and rising employment have contributed to generally strengthened consumer demand and thus helped to hold market prices for poultry and eggs above costs of production and marketing. Further demand expansion expected during the remainder of 1976 will continue to bolster poultry and egg prices, and partially offset the price-depressing effects of increased supplies of poultry, eggs, and competing meat.

Production Costs Stable

The cost of producing eggs, broilers, and turkeys in early 1976 was below a year ago. Although many production costs have continued to rise, a small decline in feed prices has been partially offsetting. Feed accounts for two-thirds to three-fourths of the total production costs.

Estimated costs and returns data indicate returns for the first quarter of 1976 were down from the last quarter of 1975 but above those for January-March 1975 (tables 19, 20, and 21). Producer returns in coming months likely will trail year-earlier levels but still remain positive.

Poultry feed prices in mid-April declined slightly from March and a year earlier. The April 15 feed price ratios (pounds of feed equal to 1 dozen eggs or 1 pound of liveweight meat) stood at 7.4 for eggs, 3.0 for broilers, and 3.9 for turkeys, which were about the same as in mid-March because of lower prices for eggs, broilers, and turkeys. However, they were well above the year-earlier ratios of 6.5, 2.8, and 3.6, respectively, primarily because of higher product prices.

Market prices for corn and soybean meal have recently strengthened because of strong domestic and export demand for feed. Corn prices (No. 2 yellow at Chicago) in late May were being quoted at $2.85 to $2.94 a bushel, 17 to 20 cents above a month earlier and 10 to 13 cents a bushel above late May 1975. Soybean meal (44 percent Decatur) in late May was quoted at $170, up $40 a ton from late April and $50 more than a year earlier.

Corn prices in coming months will be influenced by the current strong demand situation and by the development of the 1976 crops. As of April 1, farmers planned to increase plantings of corn about 5 million acres to almost 83 million acres. If weather is normal, this acreage could result in a record corn crop of 6.0 to 6.7 billion bushels, compared with 1975's record 5.8 billion. However, if poor growing conditions should develop as in 1974, the crop could be down sharply from current projections. On the other hand, production could exceed the 6.7 billion bushels if growing conditions are excellent.

If the corn crop develops as expected, feed grain prices this summer could ease from current levels. But a combination of adverse weather and heavier export demand than expected could result in prices moving upward.

Like corn prices, soybean meal prices in coming months will be highly influenced by prospects for the 1976 U.S. soybean crop and competition from foreign supplies, particularly Brazilian soybeans and Malaysian palm oil. U.S. farmers intend to reduce 1976 soybean plantings about 10 percent from 1975 to 49.3 million acres, but carryin stocks will likely be larger. Thus, total supplies for the year beginning October 1, 1976 may be only slightly below this year's 1.7 billion bushels. With relatively tight supplies in prospect for 1976/77, because of continued strong domestic and foreign use, soybean meal prices in coming months will remain higher than a year earlier.

More Competition From Red Meats

A sharp jump in placements of cattle on feed in late 1975 caused fed beef supply in the first quarter to be the largest since the spring of 1974. Continued increases relative to 1975 seem likely through the balance of the year. However, nonfed beef output has begun to decline from last fall's levels and further declines from a year earlier are expected.

Commercial production of red meats (beef, veal, pork, lamb, and mutton) during January-March this year totaled 6 percent more than in the first quarter of 1975. All of the increase came from a 12-percent gain in beef and veal. Although pork increased from the prior quarter, it was still 5 percent below a year earlier. Red meat output for spring will drop seasonally but is expected to be around 5 percent above 1975. Beef and veal will

continue about a tenth larger but pork, although gaining, will remain slightly below a year earlier.

In the second half, red meat production may continue around 5 percent above last year this summer but fall production may be up only about half this much. However, the mix between the meats (beef, veal, and pork) will continue to shift. Beef and veal output may average only slightly above 1975 in July-September before dropping below in the fall. However, pork output will surge in late summer and fall and for the last half of 1976 may average around 15 percent above last year.

Red meat prices in the first quarter of 1976 declined from the fourth quarter of 1975 but remained well above a year earlier. Prospects are for beef prices to move upward this summer before dipping in the fall. Pork prices may ease and drop below year-earlier levels around midyear as production gains. Choice steers at Omaha are expected to reach the upper $40's a hundredweight during the summer and drop to near the mid-$40's in the fall. This would be near the $49 and $46 a hundredweight for the same periods of 1975.

Despite expected Choice steer prices near a year earlier, average prices received by farmers for cattle likely will be higher because of the change to more grain-fed beef and less nonfed beef in the slaughter mix. This will result from a decline in the volume of lower priced nonfed beef, particularly hamburger, which is more directly competitive with poultry. Broiler and turkey producers will be facing stronger competition from pork this year as pork production gains and prices ease. Barrows and gilts at 7 markets this spring may average near first quarter levels but above the $46 per hundredweight for April-June 1975. Hog prices are expected to trend lower during the last half of 1976 and to average well below 1975 prices.

EGGS

Extra Day Causes Increase

Egg production during January-March rose a little over 1 percent from the same months in 1975 and totaled 45.2 million cases. Layer numbers declined 1 percent but the output per layer was up almost 2 percent because 1976 is a leap year and had an extra day in February. The daily rate of egg production was only about equal to the same period in 1975.

Output in April was about equal to a year earlier as the increased rate of lay offset the reduced layer numbers. The Nation's laying flock slipped a little further below 1975. This drop was partially due to the loss of over 1 million layers in a South Carolina fire.

Layers on farms and eggs produced

Calendar quarters	Number of layers		Eggs per layer		Eggs produced	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Mil. cs.*	*Mil. cs.*
I	282	279	57.0	58.3	44.7	45.2
II	273		585		44.3	
III	272		59.0		44.6	
IV	279		58.4		45.2	
Annual .	276		232.8		178.7	

The rate of lay on May 1 at 65.1 eggs per 100 hens was the same as a month previous but well above the 64.1 on May 1, 1975. During the period 1960-75 the rate of lay showed an average gain of 1 egg per 100 hens from April 1 to May 1. The failure of the rate of lay to advance this year was probably due to the increased number of old layers in the process of being force molted. On May 1 there were 4.7 percent of the hens and pullets of laying age being molted and 12.4 percent with molt completed. This compared with 3.2 and 13.2 percent a month previous and 6.4 and 13.0 percent on May 1, 1975 (table 2). When the layers are in the process of being molted they do not lay any eggs but are still included in layer numbers. Thus, the average output per hen drops.

Higher Output Expected

Output will likely total near 1975 in April-June but is expected to exceed a year earlier in the second half of 1976. Egg production for all of 1976 is expected to be 1-2 percent above 1975.

The rate of lay is expected to continue above a year earlier during most of the remainder of 1976 and follow its usual seasonal pattern advancing through early summer before gradually declining during the balance of the year.

Layer numbers on May 1 were a little over 1 percent below a year earlier and may slip some more before turning around and starting to gain on 1975 in late spring or early summer. The extent layer numbers decline before beginning to gain on 1975

Egg-type replacement hatch, by quarters, 1970-76

Year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Year
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
1970 ...	78.9	92.5	57.5	56.6	285.5
1971 ...	70.5	87.1	57.0	49.1	263.7
1972 ...	64.4	73.9	56.0	51.3	245.7
1973 ...	66.1	77.0	63.2	60.8	267.1
1974 ...	59.5	75.0	51.9	50.3	236.7
1975 ...	58.4	68.1	53.4	47.0	226.9
1976 ...	62.0				

Table 2—Forced molt layers as a percent of hens and pullets of laying age first of month, selected States, 1975-76

State	Being molted						Molt completed					
	March		April		May		March		April		May	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Percent	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Alabama	2.0	1.0	3.5	.5	2.5	1.5	9.5	10.0	9.5	10.0	10.0	8.0
Arkansas	1.5	1.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	1.5	5.0	5.0	3.5	5.0	5.0	4.5
California	11.0	8.0	8.0	9.0	16.0	10.0	25.5	28.0	28.0	35.0	31.0	36.0
Florida	3.5	2.0	4.0	1.5	6.0	5.5	11.0	12.5	11.0	13.0	11.0	10.5
Georgia	9.0	4.0	10.0	4.5	9.5	8.5	15.0	11.5	16.5	8.5	18.0	10.0
Indiana	1.0	.5	1.5	1.0	.5	1.0	6.0	6.5	4.5	6.0	4.5	6.5
Iowa	.5	1.0	.5	1.0	.5	3.0	.5	1.5	.5	4.0	.5	4.5
Mississippi	.5	.5	1.0	.0	1.5	---	4.5	.5	4.0	.5	3.0	.5
New York	1.5	2.5	8.0	1.0	7.0	1.0	4.5	7.5	4.5	7.0	9.0	5.0
North Carolina	2.0	4.0	1.5	2.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	3.5
Ohio	1.0	1.-	1.5	1.5	3.0	3.0	6.5	6.5	5.0	5.5	4.5	2.0
Oregon	2.0	2.0	3.0	6.5	8.0	8.0	26.0	27.0	22.0	23.0	19.0	26.0
Pennsylvania	2.0	1.5	2.5	1.0	2.5	2.0	4.5	7.0	5.5	6.0	4.0	6.0
South Carolina	1.5	4.0	4.5	1.0	2.5	2.0	8.5	5.5	5.0	7.5	7.0	8.0
Tennessee	3.5	2.0	2.5	2.0	1.0	3.0	6.5	8.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
Texas	1.0	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	1.5	5.5	25.0	3.5	2.5	4.0	2.5
Washington	10.0	6.5	5.5	3.0	7.5	6.5	30.5	38.0	31.0	33.5	30.5	7.0
17 States	4.6	3.3	4.6	3.2	6.4	4.7	11.7	12.1	11.9	13.2	13.0	12.4

again depends on how much flexibility producers have with regard to the culling of their old hens. The increased slaughter of old hens following Easter indicates producers were adjusting to the expected usual post-Easter decline in egg prices. However, recent reports indicate that the unexpected rise in egg prices in late April and early May caused some producers to cancel advance bookings of old hens for slaughter. Some producers will have to clear their houses in order to make room for replacement pullets. But the producers that can will likely hold off slaughtering their old hens as long as egg prices remain strong and above the cost of production. The unexpected rise in egg prices has caused producers to be optimistic about future prospects and could result in more force molting of old layers than was earlier expected.

The hatch of egg-type chicks through April was 6 percent above 1975 but eggs in incubators on May 1 were down 1 percent (table 3). This year Georgia has replaced California as the State with

Table 3—Egg-type chick hatchery operations, United States and 5 States reporting weekly, 1974-76

Month	United States				5 States[1]						
	Hatch		Change from year earlier		Hatch			Period[2]	Egg settings advanced 3 weeks		
	1974-75	1975-76	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month	1974-75	1975-76	Change from year earlier		1974-75	1975-76	Change from year earlier
	Thou.	*Thou.*	*Pct.*	*Pct.*	*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct*		*Thou.*	*Thou.*	*Pct.*
July	36,674	38,099	4	2	9,115	9,621	6	June 29-Aug. 2	13,633	13,838	2
August	34,945	34,934	0	1	8,517	8,816	4	Aug. 3-Aug. 30	9,529	10,211	7
September	32,091	33,851	5	11	7,754	8,251	6	Aug. 31-Sept. 27	9,116	9,501	4
October	35,489	34,801	-2	-2	8,942	8,896	-1	Sept. 28-Nov. 1	12,865	13,116	2
November	33,005	28,446	-14	-14	7,504	7,592	1	Nov. 2-Nov. 29	8,727	9,342	7
December	32,159	30,679	-5	-9	7,992	7,760	-3	Nov. 30-Jan.3	11,231	10,895	-3
January	34,818	35,655	2	3	8,788	9,857	12	Jan. 4-Jan. 31	9,887	10,783	9
February	36,552	39,197	7	5	9,422	11,471	22	Feb. 1-Feb. 28	11,847	13,717	16
March	45,372	49,085	8	6	10,816	12,690	17	Feb. 29-Apr. 3	15,297	17,995	18
April	47,409	50,813	7	1	9,420	11,622	23	Apr. 4-May 1	11,080	14,089	27
May	47,989			-1	10,594						
June	40,854				9,811						

[1] The five States are Georgia, Mississippi, Oregon, Washington, and California. [2] Weeks of 1975-76 and corresponding weeks of 1974-75.

the largest hatch and accounted for 10.8 percent of the Nation's total. The hatch in Georgia was 43 percent above a year earlier. However, this probably will not cause a sharp rise in layer numbers because Georgia producers this year are apparently replacing some of their old hens with young pullets rather than force molting them as they did last year. Layers in the process of being force molted and with molt completed accounted for 18.5 percent of total layers in Georgia on May 1, compared with 27.5 percent a year earlier.

Unless the slaughter of mature hens increases more than currently expected, layer numbers should gain on 1975 levels this summer. Also, the recent rise in egg prices likely will result in more chicks being hatched for late 1976 replacement.

Pullet chicks placed for laying flocks, 1967-71 average and 1972-76*

Month	1967-71 average	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*	*Mil.*
January	22.6	22.1	21.7	20.0	19.6	20.3
February	24.4	23.1	22.9	21.3	20.4	22.2
March	33.0	26.7	29.1	26.0	25.4	27.4
April	36.7	29.8	30.0	30.1	26.2	28.5
May	34.6	28.8	30.6	28.8	26.9	
June	27.5	24.1	24.9	24.2	22.9	
July	22.7	22.0	23.1	20.6	21.5	
August	20.8	21.3	23.8	19.8	20.1	
September	21.5	20.5	24.1	18.2	19.6	
October	21.7	21.4	25.9	19.9	19.8	
November	19.6	18.6	22.5	18.7	16.5	
December	19.7	18.4	20.0	18.4	17.7	
Total	304.8	276.8	298.6	266.0	258.9	

*One-half of egg-type chick hatched plus pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders.

Post-Easter Surprise

Wholesale egg prices (New York Grade A large) averaged almost 62 cents a dozen in January-March, up 3 cents from a year earlier. Prices advanced early in the year, weakened in February, and remained fairly stable through mid-April. In the weeks prior to Easter, demand for eggs usually picks up and prices advance. This usual price advance failed to materialize this year. Apparently, stores were unsure what the Easter consumer demand would be and were reluctant to build up stocks so prices were not bid up. The stores were afraid they might be caught with stocks they would have to clear after Easter when consumer demand usually drops sharply. However, demand was very good this Easter and there was very good clearance of shell egg stocks. This resulted in less downward pressure on egg prices after Easter and large eggs in New York dropped only 5 cents a dozen before turning up again. Last year prices

Shell egg prices

Calendar quarter	Received by producers		New York wholesale[1]		14 Metro areas[2]	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per doz.	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*	*Cents per doz.*
I	55.1	58.7	59.0	61.9	64.8	67.7
II	46.7		50.0		55.3	
III	51.0		57.5		62.0	
IV	58.4		64.7		69.1	
Annual	52.5		57.8		62.8	

[1] Grade A white. [2] Price to volume buyers for consumer Grade A large.

dropped 13 cents from the week before Easter to the week after.

Prices unexpectedly advanced sharply in late April and early May and averaged 63 cents a dozen on May 11, up 12 cents from April 23 and a year earlier. In only 3 of the 10 years prior to 1976, did egg prices rise between Easter and a month later. The previous highest rise during the period was 7 cents a dozen in 1972. The unexpected price rise can apparently be attributed to several factors—increased breaking activity, increased culling of old layers, and a sharp rise in the number of old layers in the process of being molted. This caused egg supplies to be tighter than expected. The resultant price rise was temporary and prices had weakened to 52 cents a dozen by late May. Consumer demand weakened as the higher prices were reflected at retail and breaking activity was curtailed by the higher prices.

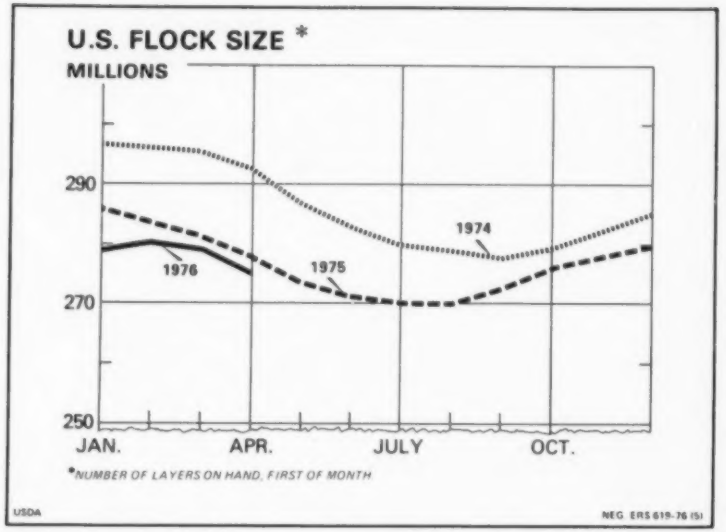
Second half 1976 egg prices will likely advance seasonally and average near or slightly below July-December 1975. Increased consumer incomes and breaking activity will help bolster egg prices, although the expected increase in second half egg supplies will limit the price gains.

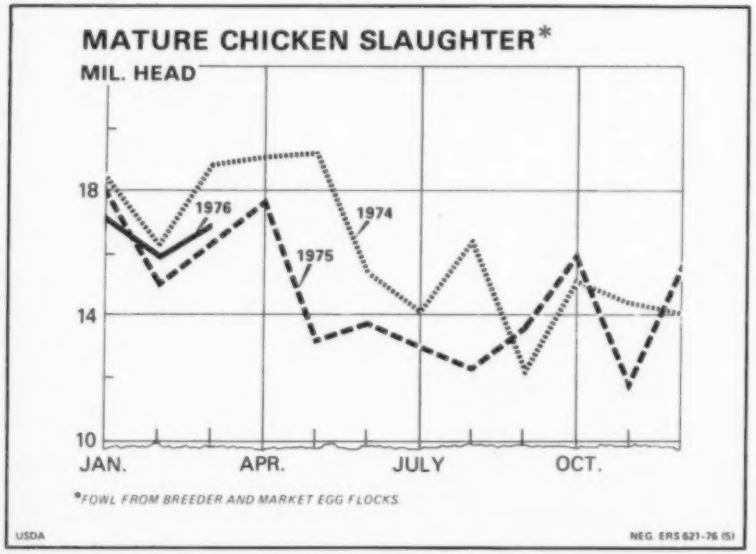
Breaking Activity Improved

Very low stocks of egg products have caused egg breakers to step up their activity this year. Stocks of shell eggs and frozen egg products totaled 755,000 (shell equivalent) on May 1, down 32 percent from a year earlier and the lowest for the date in recent history (table 17). Also, reports indicate stocks of dried eggs were down 49 percent.

A total of 3.9 million cases of shell eggs were broken under federal inspection during January 4-March 27. This was an increase of 250,000 cases from the comparable period in 1975. The most recent 4-week period (February 29-March 27)

EGG FEED PRICE RATIO*
POUNDS
9
7
5
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NUMBER OF POUNDS OF LAYING FEED EQUIVALENT IN VALUE TO ONE DOZEN EGGS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 622-76 (5)


U.S. FLOCK SIZE *
MILLIONS
290
270
250
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NUMBER OF LAYERS ON HAND, FIRST OF MONTH
USDA
NEG. ERS 619-76 (5)


MATURE CHICKEN SLAUGHTER*
MIL. HEAD
18
14
10
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FOWL FROM BREEDER AND MARKET EGG FLOCKS.
USDA
NEG. ERS 621-76 (5)

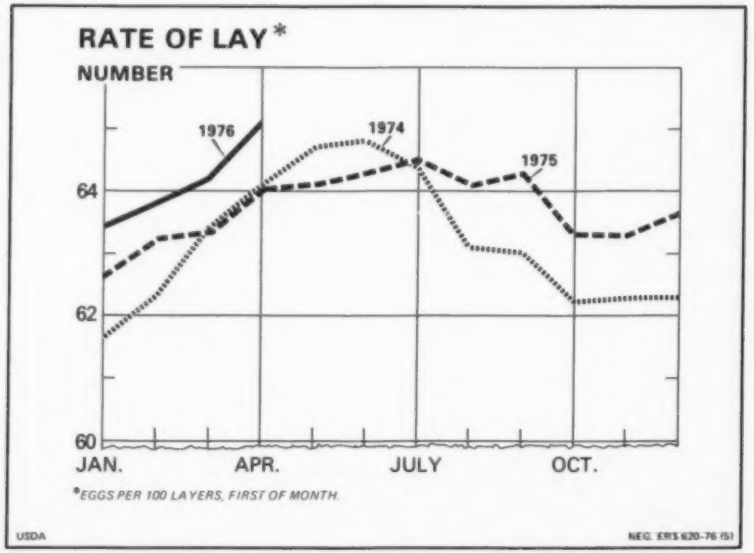

RATE OF LAY*
NUMBER
64
62
60
1976
1974
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*EGGS PER 100 LAYERS, FIRST OF MONTH.
USDA
NEG. ERS 620-76 (5)

Table 4—Shell eggs broken and egg products produced under federal inspection, 1975-76

Period[1]	Shell eggs broken		Egg products produced[2]					
			Liquid[3]		Frozen		Dried	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Thou. doz.	*Thou. doz.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*	*Thou. lbs.*
Jan. 5-Feb. 1	39,854	36,069	22,012	21,263	22,380	20,190	4,220	3,115
Feb. 2-Mar. 1	36,547	37,569	21,409	23,729	20,181	20,670	3,240	3,079
Mar. 2-Mar. 29	34,525	44,727	22,941	26,076	18,866	24,695	2,954	4,726
Mar. 30-Apr. 26	38,774		23,095		21,215		3,955	
Apr. 27-May 24	45,509		25,685		25,945		4,329	
May 25-June 30	67,789		36,389		39,645		6,299	
July 1-July 19	36,159		18,107		20,585		3,827	
July 20-Aug. 16	50,116		27,421		26,067		5,123	
Aug. 17-Sept. 13	46,690		26,074		24,155		4,903	
Sept. 14-Oct. 11	48,056		25,893		24,831		5,418	
Oct. 12-Nov. 8	44,074		26,108		21,635		5,482	
Nov. 9-Dec. 6	33,638		20,319		19,155		3,983	
Dec. 7-Jan. 3	29,676		16,458		17,901		2,364	

[1] Weeks in 1975 and corresponding weeks in 1976. [2] Includes ingredients added. [3] Liquid egg product produced for immediate consumption and for processing.

showed a 30-percent rise in breakings and weekly reports indicate April was up sharply.

Production of egg products through March 27 rose 7 percent to 148 million pounds (table 4). Frozen and liquid egg production was up 7 percent, and dried was up 5 percent. However, production of dried egg products jumped 60 percent above a year earlier in the most recent 4-week period. Liquid egg product for immediate consumption continued to show the largest increase, as it did during most of 1975.

More Eggs Exported

A total of 255,000 cases (shell equivalent) of shell eggs and egg products were exported in January-March, up 41,000 cases from a year earlier. Shell egg exports advanced 30 percent but egg products dropped about a fifth. Exports of dried eggs were less than half last year's first quarter total.

Table 5—Egg supplies available to civilians for food, January-March 1975-76

Item	Unit	January-March		
		1975	1976	Change from year earlier
Beginning stocks	Mil. doz.	42.2	28.2	-14.0
Farm production	Mil. doz.	1,339.6	1,355.5	15.9
Imports	Mil. doz.	3.0	.1	-2.9
Exports and shipments	Mil. doz.	12.8	15.2	2.4
Military procurements	Mil. doz.	9.7	13.1	3.4
Eggs used for hatching	Mil. doz.	93.7	104.2	10.5
Supplies available to civilians for food:				
Total	Mil. doz.	1,268.6	1,251.3	-17.3
Per capita	No.	72.2	70.6	-1.6
Civilian population	Mil.	210.8	212.6	1.8

BROILERS

Output at Record Levels

Broiler production in 1976 is running at record levels. Broiler meat output in federally inspected plants during the first quarter of 1976 was 15 percent above the same period of 1975. However, part of the increase can be attributed to an extra day in February and an April rather than a March Easter as in 1975. The number of broilers inspected was up nearly 14 percent and the average liveweight per bird gained a little more than 1 percent. This matched the record 3.82 pounds liveweight for the fourth quarter of 1975.

Weekly slaughter and chick placement reports indicate April-June output may total around 12 percent above the second quarter of 1975 (table 6). The continuing favorable relationship between broiler production and marketing costs and market prices

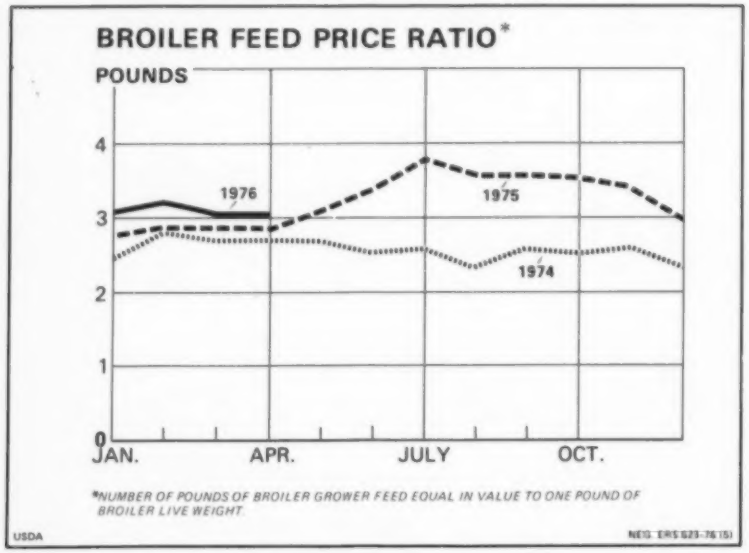
Broilers slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

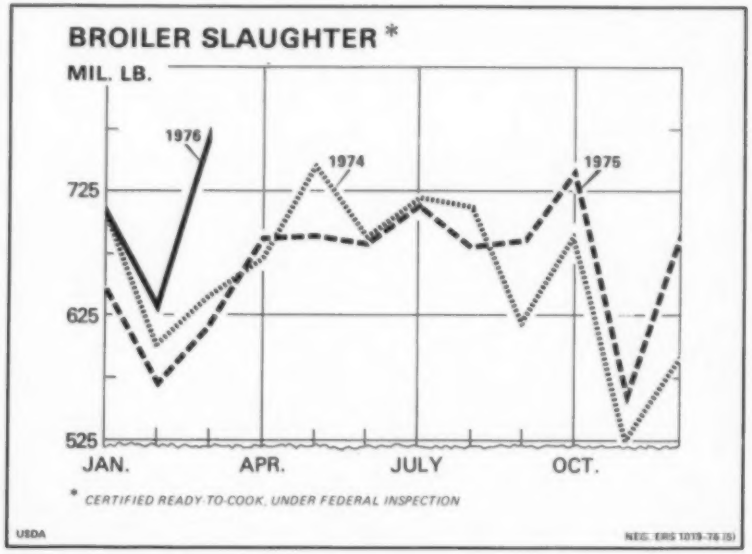
Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	671.2	764.7	3.77	3.82	1,833.0	2,116.4
II	755.5		3.76		2,061.5	
III	773.9		3.70		2,079.6	
IV	721.2		3.82		1,992.0	
Annual	2,921.8		3.76		7,966.1	

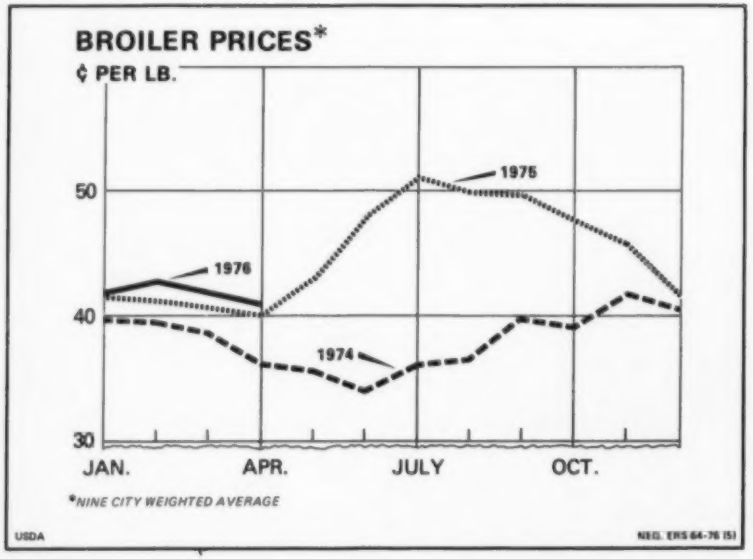
Table 6—Broiler: Eggs set and broiler chicks placed weekly in 21 commercial broiler producing States, 1974-76

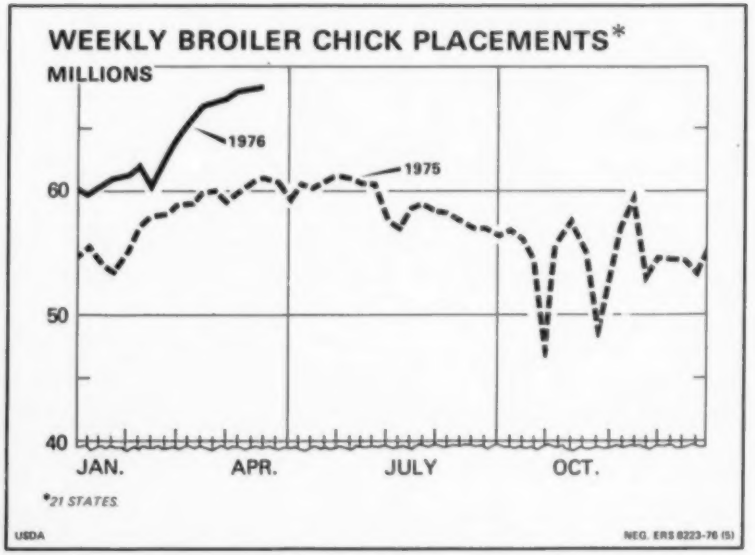
		Eggs set			Percent of previous year	Chicks placed			Percent of previous year
		1974	1975	1976	1976	1974	1975	1976	1976
		Thousand	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Percent*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Percent*
December[1]	6	67,519	65,349	67,850	104	58,826	54,797	59,324	108
	13	73,067	66,715	72,140	108	58,062	54,635	59,177	108
	20	73,524	66,565	72,641	109	58,683	54,499	58,969	108
	27	73,099	66,701	72,857	109	54,650	53,719	56,165	105
	3	73,609	65,629	73,272	112	59,653	55,349	59,000	107
January	10	74,225	64,498	73,609	114	59,375	54,933	59,946	109
	17	72,931	66,755	74,233	111	59,679	55,429	59,615	108
	24	71,875	68,543	74,761	109	59,851	54,259	60,394	111
	31	75,227	69,768	73,808	106	60,371	53,500	60,851	114
February	7	76,073	70,495	75,865	108	59,785	55,314	61,272	111
	14	77,347	71,371	78,086	109	58,824	57,256	61,968	108
	21	77,871	71,308	78,614	111	61,760	57,954	60,416	104
	28	77,847	72,652	80,357	111	62,475	58,015	62,792	108
March	6	76,807	72,080	80,822	112	63,459	58,821	64,561	110
	13	76,363	71,552	81,480	114	63,752	58,776	65,568	112
	20	77,430	72,818	81,844	112	63,778	59,796	66,689	112
	27	78,197	73,608	82,580	112	63,156	60,015	67,287	112
	3	77,019	73,775	82,941	112	62,386	59,312	67,393	114
April	10	77,565	72,297	82,685	114	62,919	59,955	67,970	113
	17	76,689	71,790	82,300	115	63,468	60,939	68,345	112
	24	77,473	73,242	81,625	111	63,259	61,058	68,361	112
	1	77,327	73,892	82,629	112	63,481	60,932	68,423	112
May	8	75,665	73,994	82,767	112	62,620	59,279	67,967	115
	15	76,378	74,033	82,449	111	62,944	60,504	66,709	110
	22	76,499	74,241			63,421	60,120		
	29	75,166	74,554			61,810	60,828		
June	5	74,426	74,177			62,096	61,374		
	12	67,307	70,326			62,001	61,153		
	19	67,271	70,140			60,433	60,623		
	26	67,748	72,123			59,754	60,650		
	3	67,355	72,110			53,911	57,886		
July	10	66,700	71,983			53,813	57,244		
	17	65,703	71,789			53,789	58,669		
	24	65,229	70,325			53,903	58,985		
	31	64,361	70,284			53,607	58,420		
August	7	63,529	70,087			52,981	58,447		
	14	62,824	68,960			52,641	57,723		
	21	63,017	70,088			51,640	57,207		
	28	61,194	69,445			51,417	57,136		
September	4	56,226	66,559			51,427	56,445		
	11	54,500	58,501			51,361	56,952		
	18	61,831	68,763			49,116	56,339		
	25	60,193	70,371			45,597	54,388		
	2	56,331	67,393			43,450	46,845		
October	9	51,818	59,532			50,040	56,278		
	16	58,987	63,944			49,688	57,677		
	23	63,252	69,922			45,597	55,207		
	30	64,159	72,638			42,106	48,741		
November	6	64,422	70,669			48,019	52,444		
	13	66,265	72,536			52,079	57,244		
	20	66,312	72,126			52,733	59,681		
	27	66,469	71,943			53,022	58,100		
		3,610,221	3,644,959			2,948,678	2,981,852		

[1] Preceding year.


BROILER FEED PRICE RATIO*
POUNDS
4
3
2
1
0
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NUMBER OF POUNDS OF BROILER GROWER FEED EQUAL IN VALUE TO ONE POUND OF BROILER LIVE WEIGHT.
USDA
NEG. ERS 623-76 (5)


BROILER SLAUGHTER *
MIL. LB.
725
625
525
1976
1974
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
* CERTIFIED READY-TO-COOK, UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
USDA
NEG. ERS 1019-76 (5)


BROILER PRICES*
¢ PER LB.
50
40
30
1975
1976
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NINE CITY WEIGHTED AVERAGE
USDA
NEG. ERS 64-76 (5)


WEEKLY BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS*
MILLIONS
60
50
40
1976
1975
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*21 STATES.
USDA
NEG. ERS 8223-76 (5)

likely will result in above year-earlier production throughout the balance of 1976. Eggs set in late May were running about 12 percent above a year earlier. However, the margin of increase over 1975 likely will narrow some this summer and fall because of the sharp increase in production during this period in 1975.

Placements for Hatchery Supply Flock Large

Producers are continuing to place more pullet chicks for the broiler hatchery supply flock. Chick placements have exceeded year-earlier levels since June 1975. And as a result, cumulative placements 7 to 14 months earlier indicate that the number of layers in the flock surpassed 1975 levels in April this year. Flock size will continue to gain on 1975 and average around a tenth larger in late summer and early fall. This would still be below 1974 but, because of changes in productivity and management, the hatchery supply flock will be large enough to produce substantially more broilers this year than in 1975.

Broiler Prices Weaker

Wholesale prices in 9 cities during January-May averaged about 42 cents a pound, though the weekly price during this period ranged from a low of 39 cents to a high of nearly 45 cents a pound. Prices will show some seasonal increase this summer but by a much smaller amount than in 1975. Despite the seasonal rise, prices during July-September probably will still average in the low to mid-40 cents a pound level, compared to 50 cents for the same months of 1975. Broiler prices are expected to decline seasonally this fall and average around a nickel below year-earlier levels. If producers continue to produce 10-15 percent more broilers this fall, prices could drop to the mid-30's in the closing months of 1975.

Broiler price increases this summer will be limited by continued large broiler supplies and larger than a year earlier supplies of competing red meats. However, improvement in the general economy and rising consumer disposable incomes will be partially offsetting.

Broiler prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		9-city	
	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per pound			
I	23.9	24.6	41.2	42.2
II	25.1		43.7	
III	29.5		50.3	
IV	26.5		45.1	
Annual ...	26.3		45.1	

Fewer Broilers Raised in 1975

There were 2,933 million broilers produced in the United States in the 1975 marketing year (December 1-November 30). This was 2 percent fewer than in 1974 (table 24). Production was below 1975 in all States except Mississippi where it was up 2 percent. Production also exceeded 1974 in 9 other smaller producing States.

Eight States produced over 100 million birds each in 1975. Arkansas remained the top producing State with nearly 482 million broilers raised, 513,000 fewer than in 1974 but still 65 million more than Georgia, the second largest producing State. The other producing States among the top 10, in order are Alabama, North Carolina, Mississippi, Maryland, Texas, Delaware, California, and Maine. Of the 2,933 million broilers raised, 97 percent were produced in the 21 major commercial broiler-producing States, about the same concentration as in 1974.

PROSPECTS FOR FOURTH QUARTER BROILERS

Prospects remain favorable for broiler producers through the summer but likely will be less favorable next fall. That's when consumer demand for broiler meat normally weakens as consumers shift to turkey and pork during the holidays.

The total cost of producing and marketing broilers during October-December 1976 may be near or slightly below a year earlier. Feed costs will depend largely upon developments in the 1976 grain and soybean crops. If weather is average or better with another large U.S. crop and some recovery in world production, corn prices may lag a year earlier. Costs for soybean meal likely will be higher. Other costs will continue upward but at a slower rate than in recent years.

Despite these generally favorable cost expectations, producers probably will not make the profits of last fall because of reduced broiler prices. Broiler meat will face stronger competition from other meats this fall than last. Beef output may be a little less than a year earlier, but pork supplies should be moderately larger. While cattle prices may not be much different from fourth quarter 1975, hog prices are expected to be substantially lower and turkey prices moderately lower. Continued expansion in the general economy with rising consumer disposable incomes and increases in employment will help bolster broiler prices this fall.

The relationships between broiler prices and the major factors that affect them—broiler supplies, consumer incomes, and prices and supplies of competing meats—for October-December over the past

15 years indicate that if consumer incomes and supplies of competing meats in the fourth quarter of 1976 are as currently expected—and per capita consumption of broiler meat is equal to the 9.2 pounds of a year earlier—the 9-city wholesale price would be between 42 to 44 cents per pound. In addition, past relationships indicate that a 10-percent change in consumption from the 9.2 pounds per person would result in a 15-percent change in broiler prices in the opposite direction.

These relationships give only rough indications for the fourth quarter of 1976 if conditions develop about as expected. It is important to remember in interpreting these results that any simple model can seldom fully reflect the many forces that may influence broiler prices.

TURKEYS

Favorable profit margins during the second half of 1975 caused turkey producers to sharply expand poult production for marketing during the first half of this year. As a result, turkey meat output during January-March totaled 207 million pounds, up 24 percent from first quarter 1975 but still about 10 million pounds below the 1974 record output. The increased output came from a 19-percent gain in numbers and a 5-percent increase in the average liveweight of birds marketed. However, the average market weight last winter gained moderately over a year earlier, although it still remained below the same months of 1974.

Turkey meat output this spring will continue substantially above last year—perhaps by a fifth. Poult production this year has been running well above the same months of 1975. Poults hatched during January-March were 16 percent above a year earlier (table 7). However, producers sharply reduced the increases over 1975 this spring as they moved into the heavy hatching season. There were only 6 percent more poults hatched in April, and turkey eggs in incubators on May 1 were 6 percent above May 1, 1975. April and May normally are the largest hatching months and in 1974 and 1975 accounted for around 28 percent of the total hatch. Poult production for marketing during the heavy marketing season in late summer and fall is expected to continue to exceed year-earlier levels, but the percentage increase over 1975 will drop sharply from the first half of 1976 (table 8).

Turkey slaughtered in Federally inspected plants

Calendar quarters	Number inspected		Average live weight		Certified	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Mil.	*Mil.*	*Lb.*	*Lb.*	*Mil. lb.*	*Mil. lb.*
I	12.3	14.7	17.1	17.9	166.4	206.6
II	21.8		16.7		289.0	
III	44.0		17.9		625.5	
IV	41.4		19.4		635.2	
Annual	119.4		18.1		1,716.1	

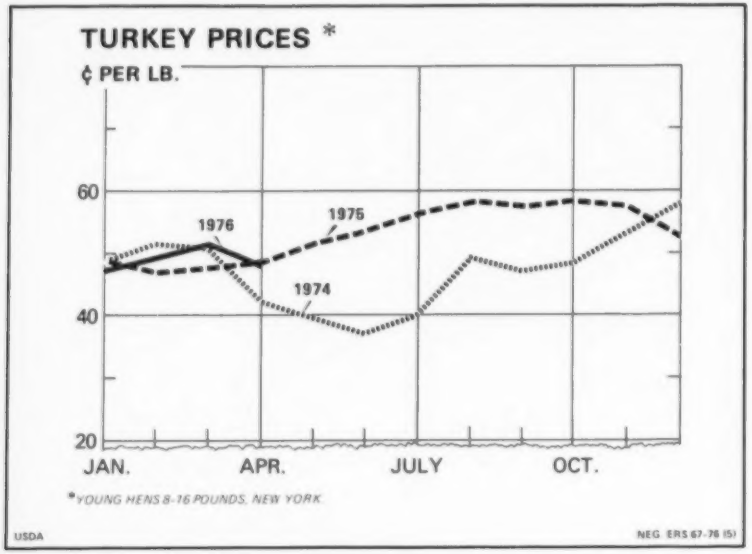
Storage Stocks Decline

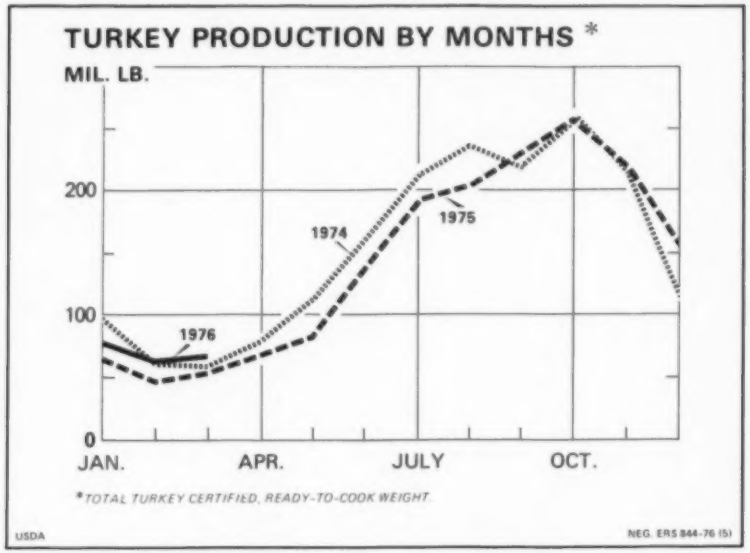
Cold storage turkey stocks declined seasonally during January-April, despite the sharp increase in production. Although prices during January-March averaged slightly above a year ago, disappearance of turkey meat increased more than a tenth. The

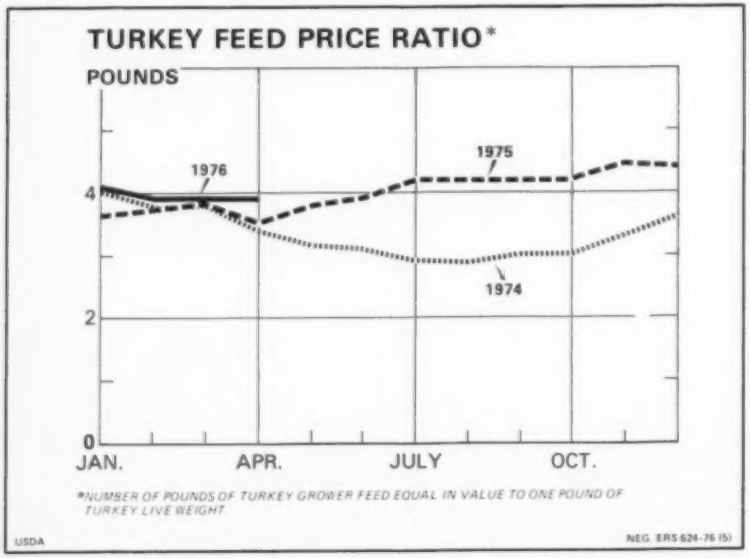
Table 7—Turkey hatchery operations, United States and 9 States reporting weekly, 1974-76

Month	United States				Period[2]	9-States[1]					
	Hatch		Change from year earlier			Hatch			Egg settings advanced 4 weeks		
	1974-1975	1975-1976	Hatch	Eggs in incubators first of month		1974-1975	1975-1976	Change from year earlier	1974-1975	1975-1976	Change from year earlier
September	3,170	4,337	37	30	Aug. 31-Sept. 27	2,429	3,570	47	4,214	5,851	39
October	4,193	4,465	6	2	Sept. 28-Nov. 1	4,041	4,310	7	6,311	6,444	2
November	4,987	5,391	8	6	Nov. 2-Nov. 29	3,959	4,252	7	5,798	6,083	5
December	6,523	7,888	21	14	Nov. 30-Jan. 3	6,213	7,543	21	9,138	10,750	18
January	8,689	10,513	21	20	Jan. 4-Jan. 31	6,705	7,858	17	10,045	11,105	11
February	12,024	13,716	14	21	Feb. 1-Feb. 28	9,329	10,330	11	13,773	14,061	2
March	16,125	18,475	15	-1	Feb. 29-Apr. 3	14,250	16,756	18	20,812	23,580	13
April	18,617	19,748	6	4	Apr. 4-May 1				19,999	20,390	2
May	19,094			6	May 2-May 29						
June	17,540				May 30-July 3						
July	14,258				July 4-July 31						
August	8,648				Aug. 1-Aug. 28						

[1] California, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia, and Wisconsin. [2] Weeks of 1975-76 and corresponding weeks of 1974-75.


TURKEY PRICES *
¢ PER LB.
60
40
20
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*YOUNG HENS 8-16 POUNDS, NEW YORK.
USDA
NEG. ERS 67-76 (5)


TURKEY PRODUCTION BY MONTHS *
MIL. LB.
200
100
0
1974
1975
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*TOTAL TURKEY CERTIFIED, READY-TO-COOK WEIGHT.
USDA
NEG. ERS 844-76 (5)


TURKEY FEED PRICE RATIO*
POUNDS
4
2
0
1976
1975
1974
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*NUMBER OF POUNDS OF TURKEY GROWER FEED EQUAL IN VALUE TO ONE POUND OF TURKEY LIVE WEIGHT.
USDA
NEG. ERS 624-76 (5)

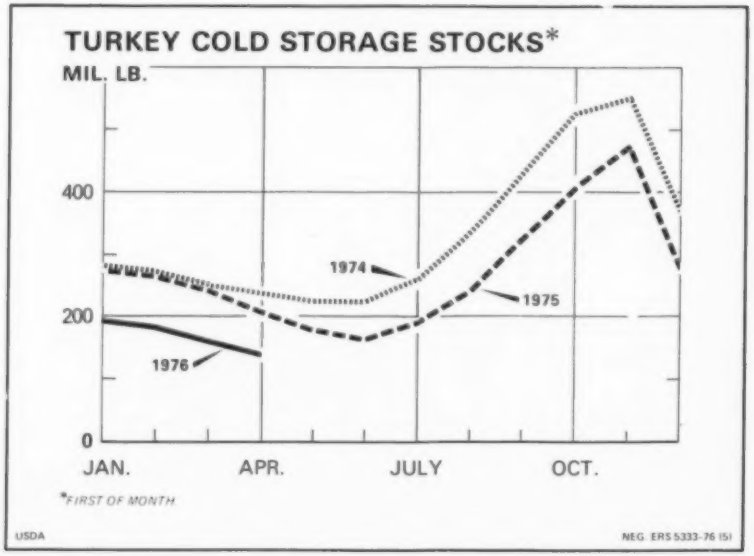

TURKEY COLD STORAGE STOCKS*
MIL. LB.
400
200
0
1974
1975
1976
JAN.
APR.
JULY
OCT.
*FIRST OF MONTH
USDA
NEG. ERS 5333-76 (5)

Table 8—Turkeys: Monthly hatchings by breed type, advanced to indicate prospective month of marketing, 1974-76

Month of marketing	Light breed advanced 4 months			Heavy breeds						All turkey: Sum of preceding columns*		
				Hens advanced 5 months			Toms advanced 6 months					
	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976	1974	1975	1976
	Million	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*
January	1.2	0.5	0.7	2.9	2.6	3.7	6.1	5.9	6.4	10.2	9.1	10.8
February	1.2	1.2	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.8	2.9	2.6	3.7	5.6	5.1	6.5
March	1.6	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.4	1.3	1.8	4.3	4.1	4.8
April	1.6	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.8	2.1	1.4	1.5	1.7	4.9	4.6	5.3
May	1.3	1.2	1.8	3.3	2.6	3.2	1.9	1.8	2.1	6.5	5.7	7.1
June	1.2	1.4	1.4	4.8	3.7	4.4	3.3	2.6	3.2	9.2	7.7	9.0
July	1.5	1.4	1.9	6.4	5.3	6.1	4.8	3.7	4.4	12.7	10.5	12.4
August	1.5	1.7	2.0	9.0	7.4	8.3	6.4	5.3	6.1	16.8	14.3	16.4
September	1.4	1.5		9.6	8.5	8.9	9.0	7.4	8.3	19.9	17.4	
October	1.4	1.4		9.3	8.8		9.6	8.5	8.9	20.3	18.7	
November	1.1	1.5		7.9	8.1		9.3	8.8		18.3	18.4	
December	0.8	1.3		5.9	6.4		7.9	8.1		14.6	15.8	

*Detail may not add exactly to totals due to rounding.

use of turkeys during the first quarter of 1976 was boosted by higher prices of competing meats. Stocks on May 1 totaled 115 million pounds, down 80 million pounds from January 1 and 65 million below April 1, 1975 (table 17). Stocks likely will gain seasonally but remain below a year earlier. Stocks at midyear may total less than 150 million pounds compared with 193 million on July 1, 1975. Mid-year stocks at this level should not be burdensome during the second half of 1976.

Turkey Prices Weak

New York wholesale prices for 8-16 pound young hen turkeys during January-April averaged 49.2 cents a pound, compared with 48.5 the same months a year earlier. Turkey prices strengthened in February-March, weakened in April, but have increased again in recent weeks. Prices are expected to work back up and may average in the low 50's during the late spring and summer. But larger production and lower prices for competing meats may hold turkey prices below a year earlier during the balance of 1976.

Turkey prices

Calendar quarters	Liveweight		New York wholesale			
			Young hens 8-16 pounds		Young toms 14-20 pounds	
	1975	1976	1975	1976	1975	1976
	Cents per pound					
I	31.4	32.7	48.6	49.5	46.3	47.6
II	31.1		51.1		46.6	
III	35.5		57.1		55.3	
IV	36.4		56.0		56.3	
Annual	33.6		53.2		51.8	

Turkey Meat Exports

Exports of turkey meat through March increased nearly threefold from the previous year to a record 18.8 million pounds. Most turkey meat exported moves to Europe. In 1975, around 70 percent of total U.S. exports of whole turkeys and turkey parts went to the EC-9 (European Community) countries. Recent increases in the EC supplementary levies on turkeys likely will dampen turkey exports in coming months.

In April, the EC supplementary levy was increased on whole turkey and on turkey halves. Total German import charges, including the variable levies and monetary compensatory amounts, were increased from 9.7 to 15.3 cents per pound (U.S. dollars) on whole turkey and from 24.7 to 27.6 cents on turkey halves and quarters. This action brings total import charges to about 32 percent of the New York wholesale price of whole turkey and to about equal to the wholesale price of hindquarters. Allowing 8 cents per pound for transportation, the projected landed costs plus import charges in Germany would be 71 to 72 cents per pound for whole turkey and 62 to 65 cents for hindquarters. This is 14 percent higher for whole turkey and 7 percent higher for hindquarters than on last February 1.

SMALL GAIN IN 1975 GROSS INCOME

Gross farm income from chicken, turkey, and eggs in 1975 increased about 7 percent from 1974 to a record $6.6 billion. Gross income from broilers and turkeys rose, while income from eggs and chicken other than broilers declined from the previous year (table 9). Of the total gross income, 44 percent was from broilers, 42 percent from eggs, 12

Table 9—Gross farm income from poultry and eggs, 1965-75[1]

Year	Value of sales and consumption on farms where produced									
	Eggs		Broilers	Turkeys	Nonbroiler chicken		Other poultry[2]	Total		
	Sales	Consumption on farms			Sales	Consumption on farms		Sales	Consumption on farms	Gross income
	Million dollars	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*	*Million dollars*
1965	1,785	56	1,217	421	86	13	69	3,578	69	3,647
1966	2,106	51	1,371	486	100	11	77	4,140	62	4,202
1967	1,765	39	1,223	460	91	8	85	3,624	47	3,671
1968	1,893	38	1,326	417	90	8	74	3,800	46	3,846
1969	2,212	38	1,531	454	104	8	81	4,382	46	4,428
1970	2,192	32	1,475	499	102	6	77	4,345	38	4,383
1971	1,813	21	1,487	501	90	5	84	3,975	26	4,001
1972	1,783	17	1,623	539	101	5	103	4,149	22	4,171
1973	2,886	26	2,690	936	166	8	114	6,792	34	6,826
1974	2,911	25	2,437	679	118	5	124	6,269	30	6,299
1975[3]	2,791	22	2,899	794	104	5	(4)	6,588	27	6,615

[1] Beginning in 1970 data (except turkey) correspond to a December-November marketing year. [2] Includes turkey hatching eggs. [3] Preliminary. [4] Not available.

percent from turkeys and about 2 percent from other chicken. This was the first year that the gross income from broilers has exceeded that from eggs.

Eggs

Egg sales for the 1975 marketing year (December-November) totaled 178.8 million cases, 2.6 percent less than in the prior year. Prices received by producers for all eggs sold in 1975 (including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail) averaged 52.5 cents a dozen. This compares with 53.3 cents in 1974. As a result of both lower prices and fewer eggs, gross farm income dropped 4 percent from 1974 to $2.8 billion (table 10). Of this total, the value of eggs consumed on farms where produced totaled $22 million, down from $25 million in 1974.

Broilers and Mature Chicken

The equivalent liveweight value of the 1975 broiler crop totaled $2.9 billion, compared with $2.4 billion in 1974. All of the gain came from increased prices as production dropped. The number of broilers produced was down 2 percent and the average liveweight of broilers marketed was slightly less than in 1974. There were 11.0 billion liveweight pounds produced during the marketing year (December-November), compared with 11.3 bil-

Table 10—Eggs: Production, disposition and value, 1965-75[1 2]

Year	Average number layers on hand during the year	Eggs					
		Produced		Consumed on farms where produced	Sold	Price per dozen	Gross Income
		Per layer on hand during year	Total				
	Millions	*Number*	*Millions*	*Millions*	*Millions*	*Cents*	*Million dollars*
1965	301	218	65,560	2,056	63,504	33.7	1,841
1966	304	218	66,205	1,612	64,593	39.1	2,157
1967	314	221	69,327	1,558	67,769	31.3	1,804
1968	310	220	68,156	1,393	66,763	34.0	1,931
1969	307	220	67,546	1,172	66,374	40.0	2,250
1970	314	218	68,282	1,004	67,277	39.1	2,224
1971	314	223	70,082	805	69,276	31.4	1,833
1972	306	227	69,879	682	69,197	30.9	1,800
1973	293	227	66,579	624	65,955	52.5	2,912
1974	286	231	66,083	572	65,511	53.3	2,936
1975[3]	277	232	64,362	525	63,837	52.5	2,815

[1] Data cover both farm and commercial operations. [2] 1970-74 are for December 1 previous year-November 30 following year. [3] Preliminary.

Table 11—Chicken and Turkey: Production, disposition and price, 1965-75

Year	Broilers[1]			Nonbroiler chicken[1]					Turkey		
	Produced[2]		Price per pound	Sales		Consumed on farms		Price per pound	Sales[2]		Price per pound
	Number	Pounds		Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds		Number	Pounds	
	Million	*Million*	*Cents*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Cents*	*Million*	*Million*	*Cents*
1965	2,334	8,111	15.0	202	969	40	151	8.9	105	1,901	22.2
1966	2,571	8,989	15.3	212	1,032	33	123	9.7	115	2,107	23.1
1967	2,592	9,183	13.3	239	1,157	29	108	7.9	127	2,354	19.6
1968	2,620	9,326	14.2	225	1,090	26	96	8.2	107	2,028	20.5
1969	2,789	10,048	15.2	219	1,063	22	84	9.7	106	2,027	22.4
1970	2,987	10,819	13.6	233	1,118	19	74	9.1	116	2,203	22.6
1971	2,945	10,818	13.7	249	1,172	18	68	7.7	120	2,264	22.1
1972	3,075	11,480	14.1	236	1,132	16	62	9.0	129	2,432	22.2
1973	3,009	11,220	24.0	229	1,104	15	57	15.0	132	2,451	38.2
1974	2,993	11,322	21.5	253	1,209	15	56	9.7	131	2,424	28.0
1975[3]	2,933	11,034	26.3	222	1,042	14	52	9.9	124	2,278	34.8

[1] Beginning 1970 broiler and nonbroiler data reported as December-November marketing year. [2] Includes home consumption which is less than 1 percent of total production. [3] Preliminary.

lion in 1974. The equivalent liveweight prices in 1975 averaged 26.3 cents a pound, up from 21.5 cents for the previous year (table 11).

Sales of chickens other than broilers totaled nearly $104 million, down $14 million from 1974. The equivalent liveweight prices increased from 9.7 cents a pound in 1974 to 9.9 cents in 1975. But this increase in price was more than offset by a 14-percent drop to 1.0 billion pounds in chicken sold. Chicken other than broilers consumed on farms where produced dropped 8 percent in 1975 to 56 million pounds. As a result of higher prices, the value dropped only 2 percent to $5.2 million. Thus, the combined value of other chicken produced in 1975 totaled about $109 million, compared with $123 million in 1974.

Turkeys

Despite a 6-percent drop in poundage of turkey produced in calendar 1975, gross income from turkeys increased 17 percent to $794 million. Total turkey produced in 1975 was 2,278 million pounds. The number of turkeys was down about 5 percent, and they were marketed at slightly lighter weights than in 1974. Thus, all of the increase in gross income from the 1975 turkey crop came from higher prices. The equivalent liveweight turkey prices in 1975 averaged 34.8 cents a pound, up from 28 cents in 1974.

POULTRY AND EGG USE LOWER IN 1975

The consumption of chicken, turkeys, and eggs all declined in 1975, largely as a result of reduced production. Consumption of eggs continued to decline with per capita use totaling 278 eggs, down 10 from 1974 and 36 below 1971. This, also, was the lowest per capita use of eggs on record going back to 1909. Shell egg use dropped 7 eggs to 247 eggs per person, while processed egg use was off 3 eggs to 31 (tables 12 and 13).

Consumption of chicken meat in 1975 totaled 40.3 pounds per person, down from 41.1 pounds in

Table 12—Per capita consumption of eggs by quarters, 1965-75

Item and year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total shell	Processed[1]	Total
	Number	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*	*Number*
1965	72.0	70.5	70.0	72.6	285	29	314
1966	71.0	68.7	69.4	73.5	283	30	313
1967	71.6	69.1	70.6	74.1	285	35	320
1968	73.5	69.8	69.2	71.2	284	32	316
1969	71.0	68.8	68.8	70.2	279	31	310
1970	69.4	67.7	68.6	71.6	277	34	311
1971	70.3	69.0	68.1	70.5	278	36	314
1972	71.1	66.8	66.6	67.6	272	36	308
1973	67.0	65.8	63.4	66.0	262	32	294
1974	65.1	62.7	62.2	63.9	254	34	288
1975[2]	63.4	60.1	60.5	63.3	247	31	278

[1] Shell egg equivalent. [2] Preliminary.

Table 13—Eggs: Supply and utilization, 1965-75[1]

Year	Supply				Utilization					
							Domestic disappearance			
	Production	Imports	Beginning stocks[2]	Total supply	Ending stocks	Exports and shipments	Eggs used for hatching	Military	Civilian	
									Total	Per capita
	Mil. doz.	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Mil. doz.*	*Number*
1965	5,463	1	46	5,510	41	39	333	94	5,003	314
1966	5,517	15	41	5,573	28	43	365	102	5,035	313
1967	5,777	4	28	5,809	71	55	361	110	5,212	320
1968	5,680	6	71	5,757	56	46	364	108	5,183	316
1969	5,629	9	56	5,694	34	41	395	83	5,141	310
1970	5,710	28	34	5,772	39	45	400	66	5,222	311
1971	5,846	10	39	5,895	58	45	391	52	5,349	314
1972	5,795	2	58	5,855	53	56	395	54	5,297	308
1973	5,547	14	53	5,614	34	49	396	36	5,099	294
1974	5,494	13	34	5,541	42	57	366	38	5,038	288
1975[4]	5,362	6	42	5,410	28	62	371	43	4,906	278

[1] Calendar years. [2] Storage stocks include shell eggs and the approximate shell-egg equivalent of frozen eggs. [3] Includes USDA donations to military and military feedings of civilians in occupied territories. [4] Preliminary.

1974. Use of broilers (young chickens) declined 0.6 pound to 36.9 pounds. All of the drop occurred during the first half of the year when use was down over a pound per person. Consumption picked up in the second half of 1975. Other chicken use declined from 3.6 pounds in 1974 to 3.4 pounds per person in 1975. This primarily resulted from a drop in culling of old flocks from a smaller laying flock (tables 14 and 15).

Turkey consumption declined in 1975 but by less than production as a result of an 80-million-pound drawdown of cold storage turkey stocks. Per capita use of turkey meat declined from 8.9 pounds in 1974 to 8.6 pounds per person in 1975.

Red meat consumption in 1975 fell 6.9 pounds to 181.1 pounds per person. Beef and veal use was up 5.2 pounds, but pork was down 11.8 pounds to 54.8 pounds per person (table 16). Lamb and mutton use continued to drop and at 2 pounds was down 0.3 pound.

Table 14—Per capita consumption of young chicken and turkeys, 1965-75

Item and year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total	Other chicken	
						Farm	Total
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Young chicken:							
1965	6.7	7.7	8.1	7.1	29.6	3.8	33.4
1966	7.2	8.2	8.7	7.9	32.0	3.6	35.6
1967	7.5	8.6	8.6	7.7	32.4	4.1	36.5
1968	7.6	8.4	8.8	8.0	32.8	3.9	36.7
1969	7.9	9.0	9.2	8.7	34.8	3.6	38.4
1970	8.7	9.8	9.7	8.7	36.9	3.6	40.5
1971	8.7	9.3	9.7	9.0	36.7	3.7	40.4
1972	9.2	10.1	9.9	9.2	38.4	3.6	42.0
1973	8.9	9.6	9.5	9.4	37.4	3.3	40.7
1974	9.3	10.0	9.7	8.5	37.5	3.6	41.1
1975	8.5	9.6	9.6	9.2	36.9	3.4	40.3
							Total chicken and turkey
Turkeys:							
1965	0.7	0.8	1.8	4.1	7.4		40.8
1966	0.7	1.0	2.0	4.1	7.8		43.4
1967	0.8	1.1	2.2	4.5	8.6		45.1
1968	0.9	1.1	1.9	4.0	7.9		44.6
1969	1.0	1.2	2.0	4.1	8.3		46.7
1970	0.9	0.9	2.1	4.1	8.0		48.5
1971	1.0	1.2	2.1	4.1	8.4		48.8
1972	1.1	1.3	2.2	4.4	9.0		51.0
1973	1.2	1.3	2.1	3.9	8.5		49.2
1974	1.2	1.6	2.0	4.1	8.9		50.0
1975	1.1	1.4	2.0	4.1	8.6		48.9

Table 15—Supply and utilization: Young chicken, other chickens, and turkeys, 1965-75[1]

Year	Production	Beginning stocks	Total supply	End stocks	Exports and shipments	Military	Civilian disappearance	Per capita
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Pounds*
				Young chicken				
1965	5,872	37	5,909	34	122	83	5,670	29.6
1966	6,437	34	6,471	56	139	89	6,187	32.0
1967	6,552	56	6,608	56	138	93	6,321	32.4
1968	6,653	56	6,709	26	144	82	6,457	32.8
1969	7,175	26	7,201	34	159	78	6,930	34.8
1970	7,687	34	7,721	52	178	58	7,433	36.9
1971	7,724	52	7,776	40	196	56	7,484	36.7
1972	8,147	40	8,187	29	198	40	7,920	38.4
1973	8,025	29	8,054	33	193	38	7,790	37.4
1974	8,127	33	8,160	37	222	32	7,869	37.5
1975[2]	8,082	37	8,119	22	254	35	7,808	36.9
				Other chicken				
1965	746	102	848	74	46	11	717	3.8
1966	761	74	835	107	28	8	692	3.6
1967	827	107	934	114	18	11	791	4.1
1968	769	114	883	71	18	18	776	3.9
1969	732	71	803	76	7	10	710	3.6
1970	776	76	852	112	4	11	725	3.6
1971	779	112	891	109	5	19	758	3.7
1972	742	109	851	82	8	12	749	3.6
1973	725	82	807	113	10	9	675	3.3
1974	794	113	907	138	13	2	754	3.6
1975[2]	693	138	831	92	19	4	716	3.4
				Turkey				
1965	1,515	207	1,722	200	58	40	1,424	7.4
1966	1,674	200	1,874	267	47	56	1,504	7.8
1967	1,870	267	2,137	367	49	53	1,668	8.6
1968	1,611	367	1,978	317	41	63	1,557	7.9
1969	1,606	317	1,923	192	40	48	1,643	8.3
1970	1,732	192	1,924	219	43	49	1,613	8.0
1971	1,779	219	1,998	223	27	41	1,707	8.4
1972	1,915	223	2,138	208	42	42	1,846	9.0
1973	1,933	208	2,141	281	54	31	1,775	8.5
1974	1,911	281	2,192	275	43	14	1,860	8.9
1975[2]	1,804	275	2,079	195	53	19	1,812	8.6

[1] Ready-to-cook weight. [2] Preliminary.

Table 16—Per capita consumption of red meat by quarters, 1965-75

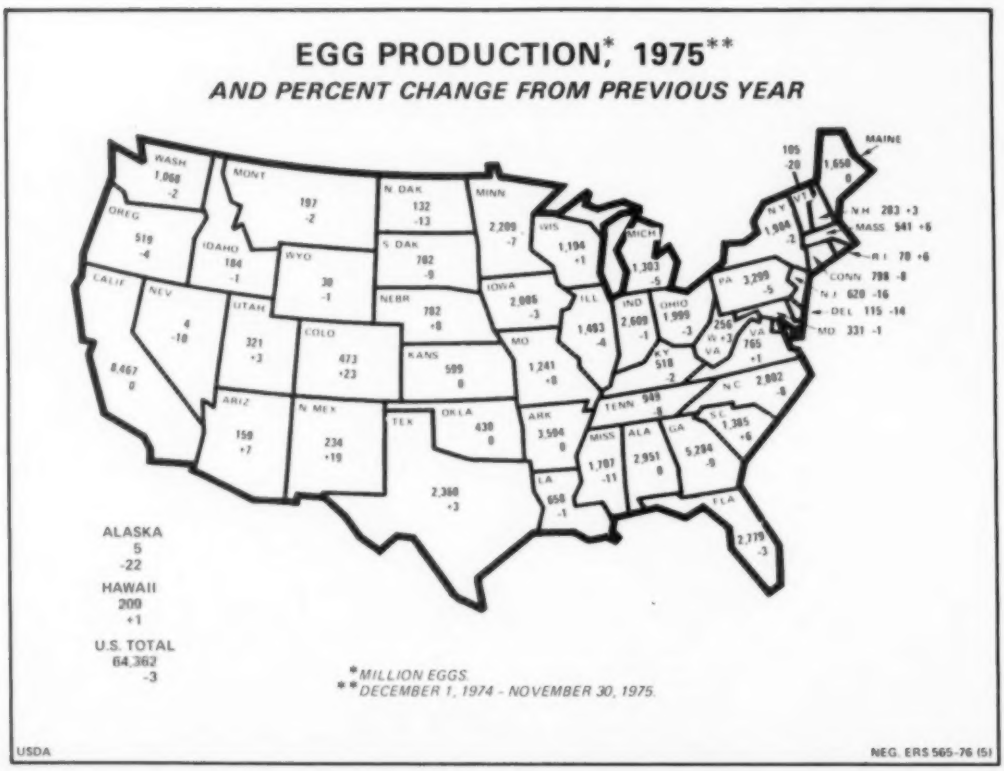
Item and year	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total[1]
	Pounds	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*	*Pounds*
Beef and Veal:					
1965	25.9	25.2	26.7	26.9	104.7
1966	26.6	26.7	28.1	27.4	108.8
1967	27.4	27.7	27.8	27.4	110.3
1968	28.0	27.7	29.2	28.4	113.3
1969	28.1	27.5	29.4	29.1	114.1
1970	29.1	28.6	29.7	29.2	116.6
1971	28.4	28.7	30.0	28.6	115.7
1972	28.8	29.4	29.9	30.2	118.3
1973	28.5	26.6	27.2	29.1	111.4
1974	28.8	29.2	30.0	31.1	119.1
1975	31.2	29.3	31.4	32.4	124.3
Pork excluding Lard:					
1965	15.8	14.5	13.8	14.6	58.7
1966	13.8	13.9	13.9	16.5	58.1
1967	16.5	15.0	15.4	17.2	64.1
1968	16.6	15.8	15.9	17.9	66.2
1969	17.0	16.0	15.5	16.5	65.0
1970	15.4	15.6	16.3	19.1	66.4
1971	18.3	17.8	18.0	18.9	73.0
1972	17.7	16.6	15.8	17.3	67.4
1973	16.0	15.4	14.0	16.2	61.6
1974	16.7	17.2	16.1	16.6	66.6
1975	15.0	14.1	12.3	13.4	54.8
Lamb and Mutton:					
1965	0.9	0.9	1.0	0.9	3.7
1966	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.9	4.0
1967	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.9	3.9
1968	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	3.7
1969	0.9	0.8	0.9	0.8	3.4
1970	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.7	3.3
1971	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.7	3.1
1972	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.7	3.3
1973	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.6	2.7
1974	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.5	2.3
1975	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	2.0
All red Meat:					
1965	42.6	40.6	41.5	42.4	167.1
1966	41.4	41.7	43.0	44.8	170.9
1967	45.0	43.6	44.2	45.5	178.3
1968	45.6	44.4	46.0	47.2	183.2
1969	46.0	44.3	45.8	46.4	182.5
1970	45.4	45.1	46.8	49.0	186.3
1971	47.5	47.3	48.8	48.2	191.8
1972	47.3	46.9	46.6	48.2	189.0
1973	45.2	42.7	41.9	45.9	175.7
1974	46.1	47.0	46.7	48.2	188.0
1975	46.7	43.9	44.2	46.3	181.1

[1] Detail may not add exactly to total due to rounding.

Table 17—Cold storage holdings of high protein foods, May 1, 1976 with comparisons

Item	Unit	May 1, 1974	May 1, 1975	April 1, 1976	May, 1976
		Thousands	*Thousands*	*Thousands*	*Thousands*
Total eggs[1]	Case	1,169	1,110	767	755
Shell	do	66	26	26	24
Frozen	Pound	43,552	42,815	29,271	28,871
Total poultry	do.	390,371	340,371	250,273	238,416
Total chicken	do.	163,195	156,621	107,528	120,365
Broilers, fryers and roasters	do.	33,775	27,757	18,856	19,170
Hens	do.	46,505	59,066	29,358	32,688
Other frozen chicken	do.	82,915	69,798	59,314	68,507
Total turkey	do.	224,951	180,222	139,971	115,294
Whole	do.	165,201	136,399	95,194	75,353
Other	do.	59,746	43,823	44,777	39,941
Ducks	do.	2,225	3,528	2,774	2,757
All red meats[2]	do.	995,864	801,063	727,394	734,701
Beef	do.	454,118	339,576	384,901	383,543
Frozen pork	do.	383,856	329,380	228,718	245,570
Pork in cooler	do.	15,259	15,740	19,125	16,459
Total cheese	do.	489,471	441,508	371,117	401,826

[1] Frozen eggs converted on basis of 39.5 pounds to the case. [2] Includes other meat and meat products.



COMMERCIAL BROILER PRODUCTION,* 1975**

AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

HAWAII
2
-6

U.S. TOTAL
2932.7
-2

* MILLION HEAD.
** DECEMBER 1, 1974 - NOVEMBER 30, 1975

USDA

NEG. ERS 566-76 (5)

TURKEY RAISED,* 1975

AND PERCENT CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

1/ COMBINED STATES
269
+38

U.S. TOTAL
124,255
-5

* THOUSAND HEAD.

USDA

NEG. ERS 567-76 (5)

Table 18—Chicken and turkey: Pounds slaughtered, cut-up, and further processed, 1970-75[1]

Item	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975[5]
	Million pounds	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*	*Million pounds*
Chicken						
Slaughter:						
Total[2]						
Young	7,687	7,724	8,147	8,025	8,127	8,082
Mature	776	779	742	725	794	693
Federally inspected[3]						
Young	7,161	7,281	7,823	7,786	7,917	7,966
Mature	516	524	518	521	535	473
Cut-up:[4]						
Young	1,843	2,057	2,317	2,443	2,466	2,582
Mature	9	5	6	5	7	10
Further processed:[4]						
Young	337	383	437	485	496	541
Mature	392	428	466	481	423	356
Turkey						
Slaughter:						
Total[2]	1,732	1,779	1,915	1,933	1,911	1,804
Federally inspected[3]						
Fryer-roasters	82	87	90	91	100	89
Young	1,468	1,536	1,690	1,677	1,716	1,612
Old	16	18	16	19	20	15
Total	1,567	1,642	1,797	1,788	1,836	1,716
Cut-up:[4]	191	198	300	263	295	313
Further processed:[4]						
Whole[5]					387	372
Other					509	536
Total	479	562	639	791	896	908

[1] Ready-to-cook weight. [2] Includes non-federally inspected slaughter. [3] Certified ready-to-cook. [4] In Federally inspected plants. [5] Whole carcass turkey which have been injected, basted, smoked, etc.

Table 19—Estimated costs and returns for market eggs[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs all eggs		Wholesale, cartoned Grade A large eggs		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[3]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	14 metro areas price[3]	
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*
Annual average[2]					
1972	17.3	28.9	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973	29.2	41.7	58.1	64.3	6.2
1974	31.0	45.4	63.5	63.0	-0.4
1975	29.0	43.5	61.8	62.9	1.0
1974					
I	31.2	45.6	63.6	72.3	8.6
II	27.5	41.9	59.9	52.1	-7.8
III	31.4	45.8	63.8	59.9	-3.9
IV	34.1	48.5	66.6	67.8	1.2
1975					
I	30.8	45.3	63.6	65.0	1.3
II	28.3	42.8	61.1	55.3	-5.7
III	29.3	43.8	62.1	61.9	-0.2
IV	27.8	42.3	60.6	69.1	8.5
1976[4]					
I	26.9	41.4	59.9	67.7	7.9

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly egg production less estimated eggs used for hatching. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for Grade A large eggs. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 20—Estimated costs and returns for broilers[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	9-city weighted average price[2]	
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
Annual average[2]					
1972	9.0	14.3	28.2	28.2	-0.1
1973	16.4	22.2	39.8	42.4	2.6
1974	15.8	22.0	40.1	38.0	-2.0
1975	15.1	21.3	39.4	45.2	5.8
1974					
I	16.1	22.3	40.5	39.3	-1.2
II	15.2	21.3	39.2	35.3	-3.9
III	14.5	20.7	38.3	37.6	-0.7
IV	17.7	23.8	42.6	40.4	-2.3
1975					
I	16.4	22.6	41.3	41.2	0.0
II	14.5	20.7	38.7	43.7	5.0
III	14.6	20.8	38.7	50.3	11.6
IV	15.0	21.2	39.3	45.1	5.8
1976[4]					
I	13.7	20.0	38.0	42.1	4.2

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly broiler slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for ready-to-cook broilers. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 21—Estimated costs and returns for turkeys[1]

Calendar quarters	Production costs liveweight		Wholesale ready-to-cook		Net returns[2 3 5]
	Feed[2]	Total[2]	Total costs[2 3]	New York young hen price[2]	
	Cents per pound	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
Annual average[2]					
1972	13.5	20.5	34.1	36.6	2.5
1973	25.6	33.1	50.6	64.5	13.9
1974	22.5	30.7	48.8	47.0	-1.8
1975	22.1	30.7	49.4	55.1	5.8
1974					
I	22.1	30.3	48.4	49.9	1.6
II	23.6	31.8	50.2	39.2	-11.0
III	19.9	28.1	45.6	45.6	-0.1
IV	24.8	33.0	51.7	52.1	0.4
1975					
I	25.6	34.2	53.8	48.9	-4.9
II	21.6	30.2	48.7	51.7	3.0
III	21.3	29.9	48.4	57.1	8.7
IV	22.2	30.8	49.5	56.5	7.0
1976[4]					
I	20.2	29.2	48.0	49.4	1.4

[1] Based on secondary data and incomplete data from survey. Estimated by computerized formula. [2] Weighted by monthly turkey slaughter. [3] Based on farm cost converted to wholesale market values for heavy young turkey hens. [4] Preliminary. [5] May not add across due to rounding.

Table 22—Turkeys: Production and gross income, 1974-75

	Total number raised[1]		Pounds produced[2]		Price per pound		Gross income	
	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975	1974	1975
	1,000 head	*1,000 head*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*Cents*	*Cents*	*1,000 dollars*	*1,000 dollars*
Maine	7	6	137	114	55.0	58.0	75	66
New Hampshire	28	21	560	441	60.0	63.0	336	278
Vermont	12	7	264	154	60.0	61.0	158	94
Massachusetts	172	125	3,268	2,375	57.0	58.0	1,863	1,378
Rhode Island	11	9	242	198	56.0	58.0	136	115
Connecticut	51	36	1,097	756	56.0	60.0	614	454
New York	166	145	3,287	2,886	35.0	40.0	1,150	1,154
New Jersey	84	74	1,512	1,539	50.0	55.0	756	846
Pennsylvania	2,951	2,838	56,069	53,922	33.5	37.3	18,783	20,113
North Atlantic	3,482	3,261	66,436	62,385	51.4	54.5	23,871	24,498
Ohio	3,459	2,835	66,067	54,149	27.8	35.3	18,367	19,115
Indiana	6,412	5,135	107,722	84,214	26.2	31.8	28,223	26,780
Illinois	520	445	10,452	9,612	34.9	37.9	3,648	3,643
Michigan	971	700	22,333	16,100	28.2	31.1	6,298	5,007
Wisconsin	4,662	4,894	91,053	95,922	28.5	38.3	25,950	36,738
East North Central	15,984	14,009	297,627	259,997	29.1	34.9	82,486	91,283
Minnesota	21,934	22,752	364,104	368,582	26.4	34.6	96,123	127,529
Iowa	6,734	6,260	134,680	118,940	26.5	35.2	35,690	41,867
Missouri	9,497	8,125	175,695	153,563	26.4	34.1	46,383	52,365
North Dakota	750	911	13,200	16,034	30.0	36.0	3,900	5,772
South Dakota	895	860	18,527	18,060	29.5	34.3	5,465	6,195
Nebraska	557	487	11,363	9,545	27.0	34.6	3,068	3,303
Kansas	225	154	4,950	3,850	28.0	36.8	1,386	1,417
West North Central	40,592	39,549	722,519	688,574	27.7	35.1	192,075	238,448
Delaware	(3)	(3)						
Maryland	31	39	611	842	32.0	35.9	196	302
Virginia	6,010	5,972	99,766	100,927	27.5	33.9	27,436	34,214
West Virginia	1,630	1,530	27,058	25,857	29.8	33.4	8,063	8,636
North Carolina	14,944	14,400	260,026	241,920	28.6	37.2	74,367	89,994
South Carolina	2,278	2,585	57,633	60,748	29.5	33.2	17,002	20,168
Georgia	1,712	1,216	32,528	22,496	27.0	30.2	6,794	8,783
Florida	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)	(3)
South Atlantic	26,724	25,742	477,011	452,790	29.1	34.0	133,858	162,097
Kentucky	(3)	(3)						
Tennessee	10	4	190	76	27.0	33.0	51	25
Alabama	18	17	308	272	25.0	30.0	77	82
Mississippi	0	0						
Arkansas	7,673	7,100	148,089	134,900	26.7	32.6	39,540	43,977
Louisiana	2	2	40	38	31.0	33.0	12	13
Oklahoma	1,600	1,370	28,800	20,550	31.0	32.0	8,928	6,576
Texas	8,780	8,845	175,600	168,055	31.1	34.0	57,139	54,612
South Central	18,097	17,338	515,124	323,891	28.6	32.4	105,747	105,285
Montana	(3)	(3)						
Idaho	(3)	(3)						
Wyoming	(3)	(3)						
Colorado	3,501	3,620	73,871	84,708	26.0	35.0	19,206	29,648
New Mexico	(3)	(3)						
Arizona	(3)	(3)						
Utah	3,471	3,446	77,056	75,123	29.0	37.0	27,796	22,346
Nevada								
Washington	416	225	8,611	5,963	35.0	40.1	3,014	2,391
Oregon	1,130	1,025	21,809	18,963	32.3	39.0	7,044	7,396
California	17,888	15,771	321,984	299,649	27.6	34.1	88,868	102,180
West	26,431	24,087	608,616	484,406	30.0	37.0	145,928	163,961
Other States[3]	195	269	3,877	5,711	32.7	36.2	1,268	2,066
United States	131,347	124,255	2,424,439	2,277,754	28.0	34.8	679,245	793,626

[1] Based on turkeys hatched September 1, 1973 through August 31, 1974 for 1974 and September 1, 1974 through August 31, 1975 for 1975. [2] Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Kentucky, Montana, New Mexico and Wyoming combined to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Table 23—Egg production and average number of layers on hand during the year, by States, by regions and for the U.S., 1972-75

State and region	Number of eggs produced[1]				Averaage number of layers[1]			
	1972	1973	1974	1975	1972	1973	1974	1975
	Million	*Million*	*Million*	*Million*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*
Maine	1,443	1,549	1,656	1,650	6,083	6,328	6,565	6,611
New Hampshire	313	320	275	283	1,316	1,347	1,157	1,167
Vermont	128	150	131	105	545	649	545	452
Massachusetts	535	522	509	541	2,297	2,281	2,172	2,255
Rhode Island	57	52	65	70	250	223	274	304
Connecticut	924	932	864	798	4,028	4,126	3,782	3,437
New York	2,271	2,052	2,030	1,984	9,903	8,916	8,639	8,510
New Jersey	746	756	736	620	3,495	3,414	3,375	2,847
Pennsylvania	3,599	3,576	3,490	3,299	15,081	15,183	14,686	13,638
North Atlantic	10,016	9,909	9,756	9,350	42,998	42,467	41,195	39,221
Ohio	2,324	2,060	2,057	1,999	10,158	8,901	8,806	8,629
Indiana	3,036	2,770	2,639	2,609	12,865	11,857	11,271	11,108
Illinois	1,778	1,664	1,543	1,483	7,804	7,278	6,809	6,399
Michigan	1,523	1,539	1,375	1,303	6,621	6,613	5,947	5,614
Wisconsin	1,313	1,267	1,183	1,194	5,806	5,574	5,240	5,253
East North Central	9,974	9,300	8,797	8,588	43,254	40,223	38,073	37,003
Minnesota	2,584	2,474	2,385	2,209	10,917	10,479	10,030	9,348
Iowa	2,295	2,141	2,069	2,006	9,983	9,497	8,967	8,608
Missouri	1,473	1,347	1,149	1,241	6,661	6,024	4,998	5,203
North Dakota	153	153	151	132	760	723	683	602
South Dakota	814	785	770	702	3,673	3,551	3,439	3,163
Nebraska	813	775	723	782	3,762	3,669	3,487	3,678
Kansas	718	673	601	599	3,087	2,938	2,648	2,609
West North Central	8,850	8,348	7,848	7,671	38,843	36,881	34,252	33,211
Delaware	130	128	134	115	611	590	610	516
Maryland	334	327	335	331	1,478	1,468	1,477	1,463
Virginia	825	789	760	765	3,661	3,518	3,299	3,245
West Virginia	261	242	248	256	1,136	1,043	1,041	1,090
North Carolina	3,433	3,213	3,037	2,892	15,172	14,094	13,011	11,954
South Carolina	1,381	1,319	1,301	1,385	5,757	5,615	5,360	5,797
Georgia	5,465	5,534	5,827	5,284	24,754	24,769	25,046	22,897
Florida	2,840	2,806	2,852	2,779	12,075	11,760	11,778	11,799
South Atlantic	14,669	14,358	14,494	13,717	64,644	62,857	61,622	58,761
Kentucky	537	515	527	518	2,457	2,328	2,261	2,254
Tennessee	1,113	1,088	1,026	949	4,844	4,700	4,323	4,034
Alabama	2,852	2,853	2,945	2,951	12,532	12,743	12,904	12,537
Mississippi	2,281	1,981	1,908	1,707	10,239	8,793	8,269	7,260
Arkansas	3,795	3,695	3,601	3,594	16,519	15,977	15,394	15,021
Louisiana	744	665	664	658	3,282	3,051	3,002	2,864
Oklahoma	502	446	428	430	2,330	2,117	1,978	1,975
Texas	2,685	2,496	2,292	2,360	12,115	11,310	10,609	10,271
South Central	14,509	13,739	13,391	13,167	64,318	61,019	58,740	56,216
Montana	217	215	202	197	942	926	880	836
Idaho	167	197	186	184	738	844	821	796
Wyoming	32	31	30	30	148	141	134	134
Colorado	297	317	385	473	1,393	1,412	1,709	2,010
New Mexico	234	208	197	234	1,031	940	906	968
Arizona	164	154	149	159	778	741	713	668
Utah	295	306	311	321	1,326	1,334	1,369	1,381
Nevada	3	4	5	4	17	19	27	24
Washington	1,035	1,063	1,089	1,068	4,353	4,593	4,597	4,488
Oregon	554	535	543	519	2,337	2,314	2,282	2,219
California	8,652	7,680	8,485	8,467	39,201	35,147	38,276	37,940
West	11,650	10,710	11,582	11,656	52,264	48,411	51,704	51,464
48 State Total	69,668	66,364	65,868	64,148	306,321	291,827	285,586	275,876
Alaska	7	7	6	5	34	34	34	26
Hawaii	204	208	207	209	952	987	1,031	993
United States	69,879	66,579	66,083	64,362	307,307	292,879	286,652	276,905

[1] December 1 previous year through November 30. Totals may not add due to rounding.

Table 24—Chicken: Commercial broilers produced and nonbroilers raised, by States, by region and for the U.S., 1971-75

State and region	Commercial broilers produced[1]				Nonbroiler chickens raised[3]			
	1972	1973	1974	1975[5]	1972	1973	1974	1975[5]
	Thousand	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*Thousand*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*	*1,000 head*
Maine	71,344	75,642	77,426	81,035	5,886	6,029	6,800	8,300
New Hampshire	---	---	---	---	1,255	1,280	1,400	1,300
Vermont	---	---	---	---	600	376	346	350
Massachusetts	---	---	---	---	2,200	2,000	2,100	1,800
Rhode Island	---	---	---	---	160	154	297	220
Connecticut	3,329	2,730	1,836	1,039	3,320	3,550	3,550	3,100
New York	1,730	1,650	1,580	1,450	9,800	9,750	9,700	8,500
New Jersey	650	625	500	---	2,521	2,700	2,100	2,200
Pennsylvania	59,368	61,263	63,649	65,770	13,300	13,500	14,000	12,440
North Atlantic	136,421	141,910	144,991	149,294	38,042	39,339	40,293	38,210
Ohio	12,700	14,000	11,900	16,660	9,934	8,337	8,758	8,900
Indiana	13,201	13,583	11,679	12,295	11,000	11,800	11,800	12,500
Illinois	---	---	---	---	7,300	7,258	6,700	5,500
Michigan	566	557	577	510	5,500	5,700	5,900	6,000
Wisconsin	13,130	14,795	11,274	11,067	4,536	4,272	4,500	4,300
East North Central	39,597	42,935	35,430	40,538	38,270	37,367	38,158	37,200
Minnesota	11,039	11,149	10,815	10,092	9,211	10,111	10,460	9,572
Iowa	2,992	3,889	3,615	3,250	9,100	9,000	9,800	10,600
Missouri	23,354	21,533	19,796	23,369	8,052	8,000	6,661	7,078
North Dakota	---	---	---	---	1,044	1,077	1,050	800
South Dakota	---	---	---	---	3,780	3,700	3,640	3,550
Nebraska	1,733	2,267	2,312	1,720	2,860	3,083	2,830	2,400
Kansas	613	703	780	627	3,550	3,430	3,300	2,900
West North Central	39,731	39,541	37,318	39,058	37,597	38,401	37,741	36,900
Delaware	131,873	140,967	146,945	136,278	625	625	510	650
Maryland	177,247	190,673	189,709	179,769	1,815	1,620	1,400	1,500
Virginia	77,238	77,168	77,220	77,751	4,700	4,700	4,550	4,400
West Virginia	15,951	17,301	18,293	15,798	1,050	1,100	1,150	1,050
North Carolina	301,772	290,448	286,558	283,986	17,005	14,794	15,000	14,000
South Carolina	28,263	28,853	31,552	27,405	6,000	5,900	5,360	6,180
Georgia	442,937	412,986	426,857	416,599	23,179	29,775	23,100	20,800
Florida	56,655	56,833	59,727	64,347	11,016	11,600	11,400	11,300
South Atlantic	1,231,936	1,215,229	1,236,861	1,201,933	65,390	70,114	62,470	59,880
Kentucky	7,257	7,239	6,885	5,870	3,200	3,100	3,100	3,000
Tennessee	54,962	52,342	42,586	18,012	4,200	3,800	2,500	2,300
Alabama	399,274	399,324	398,303	395,769	12,500	14,250	11,550	14,330
Mississippi	256,264	239,130	227,220	231,301	13,194	11,891	10,690	10,300
Arkansas	532,135	501,845	482,399	481,886	21,884	22,541	23,217	20,092
Louisiana	55,769	55,509	54,443	50,662	3,400	3,300	3,250	3,100
Oklahoma	21,500	23,650	29,560	28,770	1,964	2,100	2,499	2,100
Texas	178,511	173,330	173,588	162,769	11,003	10,300	10,600	11,000
South Central	1,505,672	1,452,369	1,414,984	1,375,039	71,345	71,282	67,406	66,222
Montana	---	---	---	---	1,200	1,240	1,200	1,050
Idaho	---	---	---	---	500	730	740	760
Wyoming	---	---	---	---	129	122	130	95
Colorado	---	---	---	---	1,690	2,058	2,036	2,188
New Mexico	---	---	---	---	887	774	721	1,300
Arizona	---	---	---	---	380	704	406	518
Utah	---	---	---	---	830	1,075	1,024	922
Nevada	---	---	---	---	18	18	21	17
Washington	16,396	17,575	16,730	15,235	4,060	4,040	4,100	4,460
Oregon	[4] 17,100	14,000	14,253	14,000	1,851	1,962	1,972	1,640
California	86,022	83,193	90,377	95,825	26,904	27,673	26,457	22,122
West	119,518	114,768	121,360	125,060	38,449	40,396	38,807	35,072
48 State Total[2]	3,072,875	3,006,195	2,991,444	2,930,922	290,093	296,899	284,875	273,484
Alaska	---	---	---	---	35	35	20	36
Hawaii	2,046	1,915	1,900	1,789	637	700	710	565
United States	3,074,921	3,008,667	2,992,844	2,932,711	290,765	297,634	285,622	274,085

[1] Includes production of other meat-type breeds. Excludes States producing less than 500,000. [2] Illinois and Arizona included in 48 State total to avoid disclosing individual operations. [3] Does not include young chickens lost. [4] Idaho included with Oregon to avoid disclosing individual operations. [5] Preliminary.

Table 25—Prices and price spreads for eggs and frying chickens, for selected cities and average for 10 cities

Item	Grade A large eggs			U.S. grade A fryers		
	January 1976	February 1976	March 1976	January 1976	February 1976	March 1976
	Cents per dozen	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per dozen*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*	*Cents per pound*
10-city Average prices						
Farm price	59.2	60.3	46.4	32.8	32.7	32.0
Price to retailer	76.6	78.2	63.8	47.4	47.4	46.7
Retail price	88.5	89.7	77.9	64.3	63.1	62.0
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	29.3	29.4	31.5	31.5	30.4	30.0
Farm to retailer	17.4	17.9	17.4	14.6	14.7	14.7
Retail	11.9	11.5	14.1	16.9	15.7	15.3
New York prices						
Farm price	58.7	59.3	46.0	32.9	32.8	31.9
Price to retailer	71.0	75.0	62.0	46.5	45.5	43.0
Retail price	97.4	99.0	86.6	71.3	65.8	62.4
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	38.7	39.7	40.6	38.4	33.0	30.5
Farm to retailer	12.3	15.7	16.0	13.6	12.7	11.1
Retail	26.4	24.0	24.6	24.8	20.3	19.4
Boston prices						
Farm price	60.0	64.3	49.5	33.2	33.2	32.2
Price to retailer	76.5	78.5	64.5	46.5	46.5	46.3
Retail price	96.1	98.0	85.6	68.6	67.7	68.7
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	36.1	33.7	36.1	35.4	34.5	36.5
Farm to retailer	16.5	14.2	15.0	13.3	13.3	14.1
Retail	19.6	19.5	21.1	22.1	21.2	22.4
Chicago prices						
Farm price	59.2	58.0	44.7	32.0	31.4	30.2
Price to retailer	77.0	76.5	61.5	46.5	45.5	45.3
Retail price	87.7	88.0	81.4	64.4	64.7	63.1
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	28.5	30.0	36.7	32.4	33.3	32.9
Farm to retailer	17.8	18.5	16.8	14.5	14.1	15.1
Retail	10.7	11.5	19.9	17.9	19.2	17.8
St. Louis prices						
Farm price	59.5	62.7	49.7	32.5	31.7	30.6
Price to retailer	76.0	75.0	62.0	45.7	44.7	44.7
Retail price	85.9	88.8	75.9	65.1	66.8	62.1
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	26.4	26.1	26.2	32.6	35.1	31.5
Farm to retailer	16.5	12.3	12.3	13.2	13.0	14.1
Retail	9.9	13.8	13.9	19.4	22.1	17.4
San Fransico prices						
Farm price				33.9	33.7	33.8
Price to retailer				53.3	57.0	54.0
Retail price				65.0	69.2	67.7
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer				31.1	35.5	33.9
Farm to retailer				19.6	23.3	20.2
Retail				11.5	12.2	13.7
Atlanta prices						
Farm price	60.0	58.0	45.0	31.2	30.9	29.8
Price to retailer	78.5	77.0	64.0	43.0	43.2	42.0
Retail price	89.7	89.0	79.9	63.2	64.9	59.7
Price spreads						
Farm to consumer	29.7	31.0	34.9	32.0	34.0	29.9
Price to retailer	18.5	19.0	19.0	11.8	12.3	12.2
Retail	11.2	12.0	15.9	20.2	21.7	17.7

TURKEY PRODUCTION COSTS IN MAJOR REGIONS, 1973-75

By
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Harold B. Jones[2], and William L. Henson[2]

ABSTRACT: Records from farms raising more than 19 million turkeys in major producing areas indicate 1973-75 costs averaged about 31.8 cents per pound liveweight for heavy young turkeys. Costs were lowest in the Midwest and South and highest in California and the Northeast. Feed accounted for almost 75 percent of total costs, poults for 11 percent, other variable costs for over 7 percent, and overhead costs for almost 7 percent.

KEYWORDS: Turkeys, production, costs, efficiency.

Costs of producing heavy young turkeys averaged about 55 percent higher in 1973-75 than in the preceding 5 years. Most of this increase resulted from substantial increases in feed ingredient costs, although many other variable and fixed costs also rose. Costs were higher in 1973 than in 1974 and 1975 because of peak feed prices.

Turkey production costs vary as much as 4 cents per pound between major producing regions. They tend to be highest in California and lowest in the Midwest and South. Although costs in the Northeast are not reported in this article, they are likely to be above those in other regions. Costs in the Mountain region are between those in the Midwest and in California.

Costs also vary widely within regions, depending on flock size, efficiency, and feed ingredient, milling, and distribution costs. Table 1 compares cost data collected by the Missouri, Georgia, and Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Stations under cooperative agreements with the Economic Research Service.

Records from the major regions show that total costs, not including operator labor and return to management, were 31.8 cents per pound for heavy young turkeys in 1973-75. Feed accounted for 74.6 percent of total costs, poults for 11.2 percent, other variable costs for 7.4 percent, and overhead costs for 6.8 percent (table 1). Prior to 1973, feed costs accounted for about two-thirds of total costs.

Table 1—Production costs for heavy young turkeys[1] in three major regions, 1973-75

Item	Midwest	South	California
Sample characteristics:			
Number of head (mil.)	6.4	4.7	8.0
Feed conversion (lbs. feed per lb. turkey)	3.06	3.10	3.04
Feed price (dollars per ton)	143.60	148.13	169.71
Mortality (percent)	10.5	11.7	9.2
Average live weight (lbs.)	20.1	18.1	20.6
	(cents per pound, live weight)		
Production costs:			
Feed	22.00	23.01	25.80
Poult	3.45	3.69	3.53
Medication	.34	.36	.33
Fuel	.64	[5] .38	.41
Other[2]	1.50	[5] 1.13	1.88
Total variable	27.93	28.57	31.95
Total fixed[3]	2.33	[5] 1.40	2.35
Total costs[4]	30.26	[5] 29.97	34.30

[1] Hens and toms combined. [2] Includes hired labor, electricity, water, litter, waste disposal, operating capital interest, and miscellaneous cash costs. [3] Includes depreciation, rent, interest, insurance, taxes. [4] Do not include return to operator's labor and management. [5] Adjusted to reflect some year round confinement operations. Range operations alone totalled 29.11 cents.

Feed prices averaged lowest in the Midwest—closest to the sources of many feed ingredients—and highest in California and the Northeast. Feed prices in the South were about $5 per ton higher than those in the Midwest, and in the Mountain region over $10 per ton higher. Feed conversions in all regions averaged from slightly under to slightly over 3.10 pounds of feed per

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pound of live turkey. Mortality averaged 9 to 12 percent, and liveweight for heavy young turkeys was 18-21 pounds.

Costs per pound for producing fryer-roaster turkeys (8-10 pounds liveweight) may average 1.5 to 3.5 cents per pound higher than costs for producing heavy young turkeys, depending on location and unit sizes—especially with near year-round output. Feed conversions on fryer-roaster sizes are likely to average close to 2.7 pounds of feed per pound of live turkey. Hence, feed costs per pound in producing fryer-roaster turkeys are lower, while poult, some other variable, and fixed costs per pound are higher.

Costs per pound for producing heavy young hen turkeys may run from about the same to a few cents higher than for heavy young tom turkeys. Mortality is lower with hens and feed conversion often better, although the average price per ton for feed may be slightly higher for hens. Hence, feed cost per pound may be similar to lower for hens than for toms. Such per pound costs as poults, medication, fuel, and labor may be higher with hens, while condemnation, litter, and most overhead costs are higher with toms.

Confinement rearing of turkeys costs more than range rearing, particularly since confinement rearing involves more cold weather brooding. Fuel costs thus average higher with confinement operations as may electricity costs for ventilation during the summer months. In addition, costs for overhead items are higher with confinement operations, but costs for labor and motor fuels can be higher with range operations. Year-round confinement production costs may average as much as 3 cents above seasonal range production costs in the northernmost States to less than 1.5 cents more in the South. Confinement rearing has been increasing and has some advantages from the standpoints of fuller use of input-supplying and processing facilities and the expansion of year-round marketings.

A large proportion of the Nation's turkeys are produced under contracts where the bulk of the variable cost inputs are furnished by the contractor. These inputs are: feed, poults, medication, flock insurance, and some energy and miscellaneous items. Contract growers furnish the remainder of variable cost items plus labor and fixed cost items in return for contract payments. Total contract growing costs may often be slightly higher than costs of independent growers—which do not typically show the return for operator's labor and management.

Contract grower payments in this study rose substantially in California from 1973 to 1975, at a somewhat lower rate in the South, and very little in the Midwest. For the 1973-75 period, payment rates averaged highest in California and lowest in the South. Contract grower payments were about 11 percent of total contract growing costs in the three regions in 1973-75 (table 2).

Table 2—Contract production costs for heavy young turkeys in three major regions, 1973-75

Item	Midwest	South	California
	(cents per pound, live weight)		
Contractor variable costs	27.00	27.21	30.70
Grower payment	3.55	3.25	3.85
Total contractor costs	30.55	30.46	34.55

COSTS AND RETURNS FOR POULTRY AND EGGS, 1955-75

By
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ABSTRACT: Net returns from egg, broiler, and turkey production, whether measured at the farm or wholesale market level, vary substantially from year to year. Variations reflect not only the response of producers to past results and expected prices, but also demand and production cost-related forces. These series provide historical comparisons with quarterly estimates from 1972 to date previously published in the *Poultry and Egg Situation*.

Both feed and other costs of producing market eggs, broilers, and turkeys trended downward from the mid-1950's to the mid-1960's. The development of larger producing units resulted in some economies of scale in production. Feed conversion ratios (pounds of feed per dozen eggs or per pound of broiler or turkey) declined substantially. Egg output per layer rose, and the ages to market weight were reduced. Many of these forces continued into the 1970's.

Over the same period, efficiencies in marketing, including realization of economies of scale in processing, more direct marketing channels, and increased densities in supply areas, resulted in a downward trend in marketing costs.

In recent years, higher feed prices and increased

Table 1—Commercial market eggs: Annual production and marketing costs and prices and net returns at the farm and market levels, 1955-75

Year	Production costs[1]			Farm prices[2]	Net returns	Market cost[3]	Market price[4]	Net returns
	Feed	Other	Total[1]					
	(cents per dozen, all eggs)					(cents per dozen, Grade A large, cartoned)		
1955	20.5	11.5	32.0	34.0	+2.0	48.5	50.9	+2.4
1956	19.6	11.7	31.3	33.9	+2.6	47.6	50.4	+2.8
1957	18.5	11.7	30.2	31.8	+1.6	46.0	47.0	+1.0
1958	18.6	10.8	29.4	33.8	+4.4	45.1	49.3	+4.2
1959	18.3	11.9	30.2	26.4	-3.8	45.6	41.1	-4.5
1960	17.5	10.8	28.3	32.2	+3.9	43.2	46.6	+4.2
1961	18.0	11.0	29.0	30.3	+1.3	43.9	45.3	+1.4
1962	18.0	10.6	28.6	27.2	-1.4	43.3	41.5	-1.8
1963	18.2	10.2	28.4	28.6	+0.2	42.5	42.4	-0.1
1964	17.5	10.2	27.7	27.8	+0.1	41.5	41.7	+0.2
1965	17.3	10.4	27.4	26.2	-1.2	40.6	40.5	-0.1
1966	18.2	10.0	28.2	33.8	+5.6	41.6	47.2	+5.6
1967	17.0	10.7	27.7	22.7	-5.0	41.1	37.1	-4.0
1968	16.2	10.8	27.0	27.7	+0.7	40.4	40.7	+0.3
1969	16.0	10.6	26.6	35.5	+8.9	40.4	49.8	+9.5
1970	16.7	11.6	28.3	31.5	+3.2	43.0	47.3	+4.3
1971	16.5	12.0	28.5	23.5	-5.0	43.2	39.5	-3.7
1972	17.3	11.6	28.9	24.6	-4.3	43.3	40.5	-2.8
1973	29.2	12.5	41.7	28.4	+6.7	58.1	64.3	+6.2
1974	31.0	14.4	45.4	45.2	-0.2	63.4	63.0	-0.4
1975	29.0	14.5	43.5	44.6	+1.1	61.8	62.9	+1.1

[1] Commercial production estimates develop from previous study for all production, commercial and non-commercial, 1955-71. Calculated by computerized formula monthly beginning in 1972, using studies and surveys. [2] Derived from ERS prices spreads series, 1955-66, and from New York wholesale prices, 1967-75. [3] Includes assembly, packing and cartoning, long-distance hauling, grade loss, etc. [4] Calculated from Bureau of Labor Statistics retail prices, less retailing and distributing margins, 1955-71. Prices of cartoned eggs to volume buyers in major markets, 1972-75.

prices for other inputs in production and marketing have raised costs per unit of output in both production and marketing. These have sometimes been more than offset by inflationary price increases.

However, net returns from egg and poultry production—either at the farm or market level—show many year-to-year variations. These pluses (profits) and minuses (losses) tend to average out over a period of years, but their existence points up the variability of producer incomes. Many of these variations result from forces which it is difficult for the individual producer to anticipate or offset.

Table 2—Commercial broilers: Annual production and marketing costs and prices and net returns at the farm and market levels, 1955-75

Year	Production costs[1]			U.S. farm price[2]	Net returns	Plant costs[3]	Market cost[4]	Wholesale market price[5]	Net returns
	Feed	Other	Total						
	(cents per pound, live weight)					(cents per pound, ready-to-cook weight)			
1955	13.1	7.4	20.5	25.2	+4.7	27.9	35.7	41.5	+5.2
1956	12.3	6.7	19.0	19.6	+0.6	26.4	34.0	34.7	+0.7
1957	11.9	6.3	18.2	18.9	+0.7	25.3	32.6	33.0	+0.4
1958	11.6	6.0	17.6	18.5	+0.9	24.4	31.4	32.1	+0.7
1959	11.0	5.7	16.7	16.1	-0.6	23.2	30.1	29.0	-0.9
1960	10.3	5.4	15.7	16.9	+1.2	21.8	28.4	29.9	+1.5
1961	10.0	5.1	15.1	13.9	-1.2	21.0	27.4	26.1	-1.3
1962	9.9	4.9	14.8	15.2	+0.4	20.6	26.8	28.0	+1.2
1963	10.1	4.7	14.8	14.6	-0.2	20.6	26.6	27.2	+0.6
1964	10.0	4.5	14.5	14.2	-0.3	20.1	26.0	25.4	-0.6
1965	9.8	4.7	14.5	15.0	+0.5	20.1	26.3	26.4	+0.1
1966	9.8	4.9	14.7	15.3	+0.6	20.4	26.8	27.6	+0.8
1967	9.1	5.0	14.1	13.3	-0.8	19.7	26.2	25.2	-1.0
1968	8.4	5.1	13.5	14.2	+0.7	18.8	25.7	27.2	+1.5
1969	8.5	5.3	13.8	15.2	+1.4	19.2	26.5	29.1	+2.6
1970	8.8	5.4	14.2	13.5	-0.7	19.7	27.1	26.4	-0.7
1971	9.0	5.3	14.3	13.8	-0.5	19.9	27.6	27.2	-0.4
1972	9.0	5.3	14.3	14.3	0.0	19.9	28.2	28.2	0.0
1973	16.4	5.8	22.2	24.2	+2.0	30.8	39.8	42.4	+2.6
1974	15.8	6.2	22.0	21.7	-0.3	30.1	40.1	38.0	-2.1
1975	15.1	6.2	21.3	26.4	+5.1	29.2	39.5	45.2	+5.7

[1] Estimated from various studies, 1955-66. Calculated by computerized formula monthly beginning 1967, using studies and surveys. [2] SRS series. [3] Live cost converted to ready-to-cook weight. [4] Includes assembly, processing, long-distance hauling. [5] Based mainly on New York wholesale price, 1955-63. Based on 9 city weighted average wholesale price beginning with 1964.

Table 3—Commercial turkeys: Annual production and marketing costs and prices and net returns at the farm and market levels, 1955-75

Year	Production costs[1]			U.S. farm price[2]	Net returns	Plant costs[3]	Market cost[4]	Wholesale market price[5]	Net returns
	Feed	Other	Total						
	(cents per pound, live weight)					(cents per pound, ready-to-cook weight)			
1955	20.0	7.0	27.0	30.2	+3.2	33.8	42.6	47.9	+5.3
1956	19.1	6.7	25.8	27.2	+1.4	32.3	40.9	45.0	+4.1
1957	18.3	6.3	24.6	23.4	-1.2	30.8	39.1	39.0	-0.1
1958	17.8	6.1	23.9	23.9	0.0	29.9	38.2	42.5	+4.3
1959	17.0	5.9	23.9	23.9	0.0	29.9	37.8	37.6	-0.2
1960	15.6	5.8	21.4	25.4	+4.0	26.8	34.4	43.5	+9.1
1961	15.2	5.7	20.9	18.9	-2.0	26.1	35.8	35.6	-0.2
1962	15.0	5.9	20.9	21.6	+0.7	26.1	33.7	34.8	+1.1
1963	15.1	6.0	21.1	22.3	+1.2	26.4	33.8	36.5	+2.7
1964	14.6	6.2	20.8	21.0	+0.2	26.0	33.1	33.6	+0.5
1965	14.4	6.4	20.8	22.2	+1.4	26.0	32.9	37.0	+4.1
1966	14.7	6.5	21.2	23.1	+1.9	26.5	34.4	38.0	+3.6
1967	14.3	6.6	20.9	19.6	-1.3	26.1	35.5	33.5	-2.0
1968	13.2	6.6	19.8	20.5	+0.7	24.8	32.9	32.4	-0.5
1969	13.5	6.7	20.2	22.4	+2.2	25.3	33.5	36.3	+2.8
1970	14.0	6.8	20.8	22.6	+1.8	26.0	34.3	40.9	+6.6
1971	13.3	6.9	20.2	22.1	+1.9	25.3	33.7	37.5	+3.8
1972	13.5	7.0	20.5	22.2	+1.7	25.6	34.1	36.6	+2.5
1973	25.6	7.5	33.1	34.8	+1.7	41.4	50.6	64.5	+13.9
1974	22.5	8.2	30.7	28.8	-1.9	38.4	48.9	47.0	-1.9
1975	22.1	8.6	30.7	33.2	+2.5	38.4	49.4	55.1	+5.6

[1] Estimated from various studies, 1955-71. Calculated by computerized formula monthly beginning in 1972, using studies and survey. [2] SRS series. [3] Live cost converted to ready-to-cook weight. [4] Includes assembly, processing, long-distance hauling. [5] Estimated from Chicago and New York wholesale prices for 12-14 and 8-16 pound frozen heavy young hens, 1955-62. New York wholesale price, 1963-75.

Table 26—Selected poultry and egg statistics*

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 1, 5-6.—Number of layers on farms, rate of egg production, and total egg output on farms, 50 States														
Average for the month														
Number of layers on farms														
1974	Mil.	296	296	294	290	285	281	280	278	279	281	284	285	286
1975	Mil.	285	282	280	276	272	271	270	271	274	277	279	280	276
1976	Mil.	280	280	277	273									
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1974	No.	1,920	1,759	1,977	1,932	2,007	1,938	1,975	1,955	1,879	1,930	1,870	1,937	231
1975	No.	1,953	1,771	1,972	1,922	1,991	1,933	1,995	1,991	1,914	1,966	1,904	1,968	233
1976	No.	1,970	1,855	2,004	1,954									
Total monthly egg production														
1974	Mil. cs.	15.8	14.5	16.1	15.5	15.9	15.1	15.3	15.1	14.5	15.1	14.7	15.4	183.1
1975	Mil. cs.	15.4	13.9	15.3	14.7	15.1	14.5	15.0	15.0	14.6	15.1	14.8	15.3	178.7
1976	Mil. cs.	15.3	14.4	15.4	14.8									
First of month														
Number of layers on farms														
1974	Mil.	297	296	296	292	287	283	280	279	278	280	282	285	
1975	Mil.	286	284	281	278	274	271	270	270	273	276	278	280	
1976	Mil.	280	280	279	275	270								
Eggs laid per 100 layers														
1974	No.	61.6	62.3	63.4	64.1	64.7	64.8	64.3	63.1	63.0	62.2	62.3	62.3	
1975	No.	62.6	63.2	63.3	64.0	64.1	64.3	64.5	64.1	64.3	63.3	63.3	63.6	
1976	No.	63.4	63.8	64.2	65.1	65.1								
Daily rate of egg production														
1974	Mil.	183	184	187	187	186	183	180	176	175	174	176	178	
1975	Mil.	179	179	178	178	175	174	174	173	175	175	176	178	
1976	Mil.	177	179	179	179	176								
Tables 7-9.—Factors in monthly supply of shell eggs, 50 States														
Eggs produced on farms														
1974	1,000 cs.	15,808	14,453	16,139	15,544	16,883	15,150	15,333	15,117	14,547	15,061	14,736	15,358	183,129
1975	1,000 cs.	15,444	13,892	15,317	14,725	15,069	14,528	14,964	15,006	14,589	15,133	14,758	15,300	178,725
1976	1,000 cs.	15,328	14,419	15,436	14,792									
Storage movement of shell eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	-11	19	17	7	20	3	6	-17	-8	3	-21	-16	2
1975	1,000 cs.	-4	16	-16	-6	42	14	2	-4	-8	-17	-15	-18	-14
1976	1,000 cs.	-9	8	5	-2									
Eggs broken commercially														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,435	1,502	1,821	1,862	2,146	2,109	2,071	1,934	1,642	1,749	1,462	1,242	20,975
1975	1,000 cs.	1,441	1,218	1,215	1,455	1,651	1,898	1,957	1,738	1,698	1,702	1,234	1,229	18,436
1976	1,000 cs.	1,257	1,252											
Eggs used for hatching														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,001	1,175	1,178	1,199	1,095	987	957	867	866	898	976	989	12,186
1975	1,000 cs.	933	1,006	1,093	1,128	1,069	1,046	1,027	953	966	959	1,025	1,053	12,357
1976	1,000 cs.	1,040	1,213	1,221										
Balance														
1974	1,000 cs.	13,383	11,757	13,123	12,476	12,622	12,051	12,299	12,333	12,047	12,413	12,319	13,143	149,966
1975	1,000 cs.	13,074	11,562	13,025	12,148	12,307	11,570	11,978	12,319	11,934	12,489	12,514	13,026	147,946
1976	1,000 cs.	13,040	11,946											
Tables 13-14.—Commercial production of poultry and red meat, 48 States														
Chicken and turkey meat, Ready-to-cook weight[1]														
1974	Mil. lb.	933	766	806	832	944	920	1,002	1,023	898	1,015	800	768	10,707
1975	Mil. lb.	781	676	736	825	831	884	967	942	978	1,067	834	914	10,434
1976	Mil. lb.	857	758	912										
Total red meat, carcass weight[2]														
1974	Mil. lb.	3,255	2,661	3,098	3,149	3,256	2,945	3,026	3,132	3,074	3,471	3,155	3,088	37,323
1975	Mil. lb.	3,315	2,880	2,959	3,089	2,873	2,832	2,842	2,860	3,088	3,339	2,978	3,159	36,214
1976	Mil. lb.	3,266	2,907	3,513										
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weight														
Young														
1974	Mil. lb.	713.1	601.2	641.9	672.4	745.0	687.2	720.1	713.8	621.1	686.9	524.5	589.6	7,917
1975	Mil. lb.	646.2	570.2	616.6	688.3	680.1	683.1	714.2	680.5	684.9	739.8	560.7	691.4	7,966
1976	Mil. lb.	712.3	632.3	771.9										
Mature														
1974	Mil. lb.	49.2	44.6	51.0	50.8	53.0	45.7	40.6	45.1	35.2	41.6	40.1	38.1	535
1975	Mil. lb.	47.8	39.1	43.6	44.6	37.0	39.0	34.5	34.0	38.7	42.2	31.7	40.5	473
1976	Mil. lb.	44.1	42.2	46.4										

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 26—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 25.—Chicken certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights—Continued														
Total														
1974	Mil. lb.	762.3	645.8	692.9	723.3	798.0	732.9	760.7	758.9	656.2	728.6	564.6	627.7	8,452
1975	Mil. lb.	694.0	609.4	660.2	732.9	727.0	722.1	748.7	714.6	723.5	782.0	592.4	732.0	8,439
1976	Mil. lb.	756.4	674.4	818.3										
Table 26.—Turkey certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Fryer-roasters														
1974	Mil. lb.	8.9	9.1	8.9	8.3	10.6	11.1	10.0	9.7	5.9	8.0	5.4	3.9	100
1975	Mil. lb.	7.0	6.9	7.5	7.7	6.9	7.2	8.3	7.0	6.8	8.8	8.2	7.0	89
1976	Mil. lb.	6.5	6.4	8.1										
Young turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	87.3	49.4	48.6	69.0	100.6	144.9	199.2	225.8	213.3	252.4	209.7	115.8	1,716
1975	Mil. lb.	56.8	39.9	45.8	60.5	73.6	128.3	181.3	194.7	221.1	248.3	211.9	150.1	1,612
1976	Mil. lb.	68.9	54.5	58.8										
Old turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	1.1	1.3	1.4	2.8	2.1	3.8	3.8	1.7	.9	.6	.1	.3	20
1975	Mil. lb.	1.1	.3	1.2	.6	1.5	2.9	3.7	1.6	1.0	.4	.1	.3	15
1976	Mil. lb.	.8	.8	1.8										
Total turkeys														
1974	Mil. lb.	97.3	59.8	58.9	80.1	113.2	159.7	213.1	237.2	220.2	261.1	215.2	119.9	1,836
1975	Mil. lb.	64.9	47.1	54.4	68.7	81.9	138.4	193.2	203.3	229.0	257.5	220.2	157.5	1,716
1976	Mil. lb.	76.3	61.7	68.6										
Table 27.—Ducks, and total poultry certified as wholesome in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Ducks														
1974	Mil. lb.	3.0	2.3	2.5	4.4	5.5	5.7	5.7	5.5	5.0	5.1	3.5	3.2	51
1975	Mil. lb.	2.5	2.2	2.8	4.7	5.0	5.8	5.3	4.6	4.8	4.7	3.7	3.9	50
1976	Mil. lb.	3.2	2.7	3.4										
Total poultry														
1974	Mil. lb.	862.8	708.0	754.4	807.8	916.9	896.5	979.8	1,001.8	881.6	996.1	785.1	751.2	10,344
1975	Mil. lb.	761.6	658.7	717.6	806.5	814.1	866.5	947.5	922.7	957.5	1,045.6	817.7	893.5	10,210
1976	Mil. lb.	836.0	739.0	890.4										
Table 28.—Chicken and turkey inspected ffor further processing in Federally inspected plants, ready-to-cook weights														
Chicken														
Young														
1974	Mil. lb.	45.1	41.7	46.8	45.8	44.0	38.3	36.3	40.7	39.3	41.9	42.7	33.3	496
1975	Mil. lb.	39.6	35.6	38.4	41.9	40.9	47.3	46.2	48.0	50.3	55.3	45.4	49.7	541
1976	Mil. lb.	51.8	47.5	55.6										
Mature														
1974	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	40.6	38.5	35.8	27.2	24.7	34.5	34.0	40.7	33.1	28.0	423
1975	Mil. lb.	31.2	24.4	25.6	29.1	21.8	28.3	25.5	27.7	31.9	38.3	34.1	38.2	356
1976	Mil. lb.	43.2	39.6	44.7										
Total														
1974	Mil. lb.	90.9	82.1	87.4	84.3	79.7	65.5	61.1	75.1	73.3	82.5	75.8	61.3	919
1975	Mil. lb.	70.8	60.0	64.0	71.0	62.7	75.6	73.8	75.7	82.2	93.7	79.6	87.9	897
1976	Mil. lb.	95.0	87.1	100.3										
Turkey														
1974	Mil. lb.	54.9	41.2	44.6	47.9	60.5	72.4	90.8	110.0	101.4	117.6	88.1	66.9	896
1975	Mil. lb.	45.8	40.4	44.7	49.1	45.3	69.1	99.1	107.4	111.8	129.1	98.9	67.2	908
1976	Mil. lb.	47.9	44.4	54.5										
Table 32.—Per capita consumption of shell eggs														
Shell equivalent:														
1974	No.	22.8	19.9	22.3	21.0	21.3	20.4	20.8	21.0	20.4	21.0	20.7	22.2	254
1975	do.	22.0	19.4	21.9	20.4	20.6	19.2	20.1	20.6	19.8	20.8	20.8	21.6	247
1976	do.	21.8	19.7											
Tables 34-41.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per dozen for shell eggs														
United States, received by farmers[3]														
1974	Cents	66.6	63.9	56.7	50.1	42.2	39.8	43.8	47.8	54.8	54.9	55.4	59.5	53.0
1975	do.	57.2	54.1	54.1	47.4	47.1	45.6	46.5	50.8	55.8	52.9	58.2	64.1	52.5
1976	do.	62.2	59.8	54.1	53.4	55.5								
Grade A large eggs in retail stores[4] [5]														
1974	do.	93.0	94.5	85.6	78.1	64.9	62.5	62.3	71.1	79.0	83.9	81.0	84.1	78.3
1975	do.	84.2	83.9	74.9	77.2	70.6	66.9	70.6	73.7	79.9	77.7	78.1	86.1	77.0
1976	do.	89.1	90.1	78.2	77.6									

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 26—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 34-41.—Monthly average price per dozen shell eggs—Continued														
Iowa, received by farmers														
Buyer quality and volume incentive														
Large														
1974	Cents	63.16	58.33	50.90	42.52	31.57	31.08	36.27	42.45	49.58	49.81	49.85	54.69	46.68
1975	do.	50.25	43.34	45.26	36.09	36.86	36.90	39.27	44.64	49.43	45.12	51.05	58.52	44.73
1976	do.	56.21	50.26	44.91	44.20									
Medium														
1974	do.	57.99	51.32	43.98	33.12	22.59	20.61	27.86	33.59	43.82	45.14	43.38	49.05	39.37
1975	do.	44.32	37.21	37.38	30.48	26.26	25.90	27.89	34.02	39.31	38.55	42.95	53.25	36.46
1976	do.	48.93	43.63	34.78	35.43									
Price to volume buyers[6]														
14 Metro areas:														
Large														
1974	do.	77.46	72.17	64.46	58.27	49.52	48.72	53.89	60.54	67.23	66.01	65.70	71.42	62.85
1975	do.	67.82	62.49	64.24	55.78	55.37	54.88	56.76	62.28	66.85	62.37	69.08	75.81	62.81
1976	do.	73.30	67.42	62.40	62.05									
Los Angeles, Grade AA:														
Large														
1974	do.	75.73	71.34	61.24	56.21	54.50	51.60	55.86	60.55	67.60	64.12	64.30	70.07	62.76
1975	do.	68.32	68.71	65.55	58.74	60.26	58.50	55.73	61.64	66.78	63.74	70.00	75.48	64.70
1976	do.	75.33	69.00	66.96	66.36									
Medium														
1974	do.	73.73	67.08	57.19	52.50	45.77	44.50	47.59	52.77	62.15	60.26	63.20	69.07	57.98
1975	do.	67.32	67.71	65.67	53.85	54.55	50.50	49.27	52.74	59.78	60.93	69.00	74.48	60.48
1976	do.	74.33	66.56	62.92	62.91									
New York, wholesale prices, white														
Large, 75 percent A														
1974	do.	74.00	68.29	60.20	52.08	42.71	42.83	48.96	55.84	63.07	61.69	61.21	67.26	58.18
1975	do.	62.18	55.44	59.24	50.17	49.26	50.55	52.59	58.21	61.56	56.65	65.67	71.85	57.78
1976	do.	68.44	60.55	56.78	55.44									
Medium														
1974	do.	72.00	62.42	55.67	44.03	34.27	32.33	41.57	47.84	58.09	58.40	56.89	64.42	52.33
1975	do.	57.75	50.58	53.24	46.18	40.76	41.43	42.58	48.28	53.07	53.61	59.42	70.50	51.45
1976	do.	64.22	57.94	49.56	49.50									
Midwest, paid delivered[7]														
Large														
1974	do.	76.50	71.25	63.50	56.25	47.00	47.00	51.12	58.10	66.00	65.20	64.13	70.63	61.39
1975	do.	66.20	59.62	61.38	53.25	53.20	52.75	55.20	60.50	65.25	60.90	67.75	74.50	60.88
1976	do.	72.75	66.25	60.75	59.85									
Medium														
1974	do.	74.10	64.38	58.00	48.25	38.60	36.50	43.12	48.70	60.50	62.30	60.25	67.25	56.16
1975	do.	62.00	54.88	55.50	49.50	45.20	44.25	45.60	50.50	56.38	56.60	61.00	72.50	54.49
1976	do.	68.30	62.62	53.00	52.60									
Table 42.—Egg prices: Monthly average price per pound for frozen egg products														
New York and Philadelphia														
Frozen egg														
Whole egg, light colored														
1974	Cents	47.38	50.34	46.08	35.94	33.83	32.23	33.72	39.39	43.53	39.74	36.78	37.64	39.72
1975	do.	36.06	33.81	32.48	32.72	37.94	37.59	38.38	39.80	42.31	41.39	42.16	41.79	38.04
1976	do.	41.54	42.75	42.36	40.59									
White														
1974	do.	16.41	17.75	16.50	15.86	15.89	16.44	16.41	19.44	22.72	20.47	17.94	18.22	17.84
1975	do.	17.57	16.97	16.41	16.38	18.75	20.44	21.38	22.27	23.11	22.69	22.94	22.92	20.15
1976	do.	22.39	22.59	22.64	22.15									
Yolks, light colored, sugared, 43 percent solids														
1974	do.	87.28	89.72	85.13	68.89	60.22	60.39	64.16	72.89	78.94	77.03	73.90	72.61	74.26
1975	do.	69.39	64.69	60.69	57.69	60.58	61.75	62.69	64.72	67.69	67.42	67.94	68.11	64.45
1976	do.	67.50	67.78	67.34	65.35									
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound														
Liveweight														
United States, at farm														
1974	Cents	21.5	23.4	22.2	21.0	20.5	19.0	20.5	20.9	22.8	22.8	24.2	22.6	21.8
1975	do.	23.8	24.3	23.5	23.2	24.6	27.6	29.7	29.1	29.6	28.5	27.0	24.0	26.2
1976	do.	24.3	25.2	24.4	23.7	24.7								

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 26—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 44-47.—Average broiler prices per pound—Continued														
Broilers, weighted average, delivered to major areas[5]														
9-City average[5]														
1974	Cents	39.69	39.41	38.76	36.30	35.64	34.05	36.41	36.84	39.89	39.32	41.94	40.71	38.25
1975	do.	41.64	41.37	40.72	40.06	42.88	48.05	51.20	49.96	49.66	47.73	45.82	41.79	45.07
1976	do.	41.89	42.66	41.93	41.00									
Chicago														
1974	do.	39.3	39.8	38.5	36.4	35.5	33.8	36.3	36.7	39.8	39.0	41.8	40.2	38.1
1975	do.	42.8	40.9	40.2	39.8	42.3	46.9	50.9	49.6	49.6	47.2	45.6	41.7	44.8
1976	do.	41.7	42.6	41.6	40.9									
New York														
1974	do.	38.5	38.5	37.6	33.6	34.8	33.9	35.7	36.2	39.5	39.3	41.4	39.8	37.4
1975	do.	41.6	41.3	40.3	39.7	42.0	47.2	51.4	49.6	49.7	47.6	45.2	40.6	44.7
1976	do.	41.6	41.9	41.3	40.8									
Los Angeles														
1974	do.	41.2	41.5	40.5	38.1	36.6	34.8	38.0	38.1	40.8	40.2	42.8	41.0	39.5
1975	do.	43.4	42.5	42.0	42.0	44.2	48.0	52.2	51.0	50.9	48.9	47.2	43.3	46.3
1976	do.	43.4	44.4	43.7	42.2									
Frying chicken in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	59.2	58.7	57.5	55.6	52.2	51.2	51.8	53.5	57.0	56.2	58.2	60.4	56.0
1975	do.	59.3	58.6	58.8	57.6	57.9	61.5	68.3	68.6	69.9	66.9	66.5	65.5	63.3
1976	do.	63.6	61.4	60.8	60.7									
Chicken breasts, in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	100.1	100.4	99.9	98.0	95.8	94.4	94.6	97.3	99.3	99.0	100.5	102.5	98.5
1975	do.	102.3	103.4	102.9	101.3	103.0	107.2	116.7	117.1	118.0	116.1	115.8	115.3	119.9
1976	do.	112.3	111.8	109.3	109.6									
Tables 50-54.—Average turkey prices per pound														
Liveweight[3]														
U.S., at farm														
1974	Cents	34.8	32.6	32.3	27.7	24.6	23.6	23.0	27.1	27.3	28.0	30.8	33.4	28.8
1975	do.	32.4	31.2	30.7	29.4	31.1	32.7	34.4	35.7	36.3	36.4	36.7	36.2	33.6
1976	do.	33.6	32.1	32.5	31.6	32.0								
Turkeys in retail stores[4]														
1974	do.	85.4	80.4	79.6	75.8	70.5	68.1	65.9	66.0	69.8	71.2	71.0	68.9	72.7
1975	do.	69.2	71.6	70.4	69.0	69.1	70.9	71.4	74.5	75.5	76.7	77.4	75.8	72.6
1976	do.	76.6	75.0	73.5	74.4									
Wholesale frozen (average f.o.b. or equivalent)														
New York:														
Young hens, 8-16 pounds														
1974	do.	48.6	51.3	50.7	42.2	39.7	37.4	39.7	49.6	47.0	48.2	53.6	57.9	47.2
1975	do.	51.6	46.9	47.3	48.3	51.6	53.4	56.0	58.0	57.2	58.1	57.3	52.6	53.2
1976	do.	47.1	49.7	51.7	48.2									
Young toms, 14-20 pounds														
1974	do.	48.2	48.2	46.7	39.4	38.4	34.5	37.0	43.1	42.6	45.7	50.6	52.8	43.9
1975	do.	49.1	46.0	43.7	43.3	46.9	49.6	52.7	56.2	57.0	57.2	56.7	54.4	51.8
1976	do.	46.8	46.1	49.8	49.4									
Paid at seller's dock, frozen														
New York														
Hens, 8-16 pounds														
1974	do.	58.6	55.4	55.7	47.5	44.1	41.3	41.5	52.7	52.1	52.3	57.2	61.9	51.7
1975	do.	57.5	50.2	57.2	52.3	55.3	57.0	59.3	61.2	61.2	61.2	61.2	57.9	57.0
1976	do.	51.8	51.8	55.3	52.8									
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1974	do.	60.7	54.2	51.9	45.3	48.4	52.5	52.6	55.8	55.7	54.4	56.3	58.8	53.9
1975	do.	59.0	56.7	55.0	52.0	52.6	56.5	59.5	61.8	64.3	66.8	69.9	70.0	60.3
1976	do.	69.0	69.0	69.9	70.0									
Chicago														
Hens, 12-14 pounds														
1974	do.	51.1	51.8	52.1	46.4	43.0	40.1	41.0	50.8	50.5	50.6	54.9	60.6	49.4
1975	do.	58.7	52.2	50.5	50.6	53.3	54.7	57.1	58.8	58.5	59.3	60.5	57.0	55.9
1976	do.	51.2	50.0	53.5	51.1									
Toms, heaviest weights quoted														
1974	do.	63.2	57.9	54.9	43.7	46.0	50.3	50.7	54.8	56.3	55.4	55.5	57.0	53.8
1975	do.	57.0	56.7	55.2	55.0	55.0	56.0	57.0	60.3	62.1	65.1	67.2	68.0	59.6
1976	do.	68.0	68.0	67.8	68.4									
Tables 57-60.—Prices paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios														
All poults each														
1974	Cents	64.8	65.1	67.0	68.3	67.9	69.0	68.4	67.4	67.3	67.4	67.2	68.8	67.4
1975	do.	68.7	69.5	70.1	70.0	70.0	71.0	73.9	70.6	70.4	68.6	67.6	68.8	69.9
1976	do.	68.9	69.6	70.5	70.5	70.5								

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 26—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Tables 57-60.—Price paid for poults, poultry feed, and feed ingredients; and product-feed price ratios—Continued														
Feed per ton														
Laying feed														
1974	Dollars	152	153	151	144	137	137	141	168	163	168	167	164	154
1975	do.	160	151	143	146	145	144	145	150	149	148	143	143	147
1976	do.	143	143	145	144	146								
Broiler grower feed														
1974	do.	170	169	165	156	151	151	157	180	176	185	183	180	169
1975	do.	176	167	161	164	161	162	161	163	164	164	158	160	163
1976	do.	158	160	160	159	161								
Turkey grower feed														
1974	do.	172	172	168	162	156	153	158	188	183	189	187	184	173
1975	do.	178	168	161	165	164	165	163	168	170	170	164	165	167
1976	do.	165	165	165	162	165								
Corn, Chicago No. 2 yellow (per bushel)														
1974	Cents	293	310	301	246	269	292	328	365	353	385	349	355	321
1975	do.	309	300	296	304	288	291	286	317	301	276	264	259	291
1976	do.	267	271	269	269									
Soybean meal, 44 percent, Decatur (per ton, bulk)														
1974	Dollars	172	160	147	117	109	100	138	156	138	168	141	143	141
1975	do.	129	117	118	122	118	121	124	134	134	126	120	125	124
1976	do.	128	133	128	127									
Product-feed price ratios														
Broiler[10]														
1974	Pounds	2.5	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.4	2.6
1975	do.	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.8	3.1	3.4	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.0	3.2
1976	do.	3.1	3.2	3.0	3.0	3.1								
Turkey[11]														
1974	do.	4.0	3.8	3.8	3.4	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	3.3	3.6	3.2
1975	do.	3.6	3.7	3.8	3.6	3.8	4.0	4.2	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.5	4.4	4.0
1976	do.	4.1	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9								
Egg[12]														
1974	do.	8.8	8.4	7.5	7.0	6.2	5.8	6.2	5.7	6.7	6.5	6.6	7.2	6.9
1975	do.	7.2	7.2	7.6	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	6.8	7.5	7.1	8.1	9.0	7.2
1976	do.	8.7	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.6								
Tables 61-62.—Chicks hatched by types and pullet chicks placed														
Chicks hatched														
Broiler-type														
1974	Mil.	277.5	254.2	296.5	288.9	297.5	275.9	251.1	244.1	220.8	217.1	228.4	252.5	3,104.4
1975	Mil.	253.7	239.0	278.1	275.3	285.1	274.7	270.8	268.3	247.6	249.9	254.6	271.9	3,169.1
1976	Mil.	278.1	267.9	309.1	309.5									
Egg-type														
1974	Mil.	35.1	37.7	46.2	54.6	52.1	43.4	36.7	34.9	32.1	35.5	33.0	32.2	473.4
1975	Mil.	34.8	36.6	45.4	47.4	48.0	40.9	38.1	34.9	33.9	34.8	28.4	30.7	453.8
1976	Mil.	35.7	39.2	49.1	50.8									
Pullet chicks placed domestically for broiler hatchery supply flocks[13]														
Total														
1974	Thou.	2,489	2,474	2,906	2,795	2,754	2,525	2,259	2,288	2,160	2,141	2,171	2,302	29,264
1975	Thou.	2,201	2,134	2,754	2,492	2,874	2,459	2,466	2,645	2,647	2,449	2,306	2,379	29,816
1976	Thou.	2,423	2,556	2,907	3,104									
Cumulation relevant to breeder flock[14]														
1974	Thou.	20,769	20,893	21,232	21,495	22,246	21,496	20,831	20,362	20,309	20,720	20,927	21,028	
1975	Thou.	20,632	20,585	20,490	20,161	19,828	19,093	18,600	18,057	17,666	18,161	18,365	19,079	
1976	Thou.	19,397	19,602	20,035	20,471	20,786	20,338	20,225	19,774	19,871	20,312	20,771		
1977	Thou.													
Table 63.—Poults hatched by breeds														
Poults hatched														
Light breeds														
1974	Thou.	1,324	1,193	1,502	1,478	1,381	1,381	1,096	779	515	1,185	1,302	1,284	14,420
1975	Thou.	1,202	1,367	1,406	1,657	1,526	1,400	1,524	1,319	747	1,008	1,244	1,518	15,918
1976	Thou.	1,794	1,438	1,909	1,978									
Total heavy breeds														
1974	Thou.	9,572	12,794	17,938	19,172	18,687	15,718	11,858	5,273	2,655	3,008	3,685	5,239	125,599
1975	Thou.	7,487	10,657	14,719	16,960	17,568	16,140	12,734	7,329	3,590	3,457	4,147	6,370	121,158
1976	Thou.	8,719	12,278	16,566	17,770									
All breeds														
1974	Thou.	10,896	13,987	19,440	20,650	20,068	17,099	12,954	6,052	3,170	4,193	4,987	6,523	140,019
1975	Thou.	8,689	12,024	16,125	18,617	19,094	17,540	14,258	8,648	4,337	4,465	5,391	7,888	137,076
1976	Thou.	10,513	13,716	18,475	19,748									

*See footnotes at end of table.

Table 26—Selected poultry and egg statistics*—Continued

Item	Data in—	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Annual
Table 66.—Cold storage holdings of shell and frozen eggs, first of month														
All frozen eggs														
1974	Mil. lb.	43.2	37.7	35.7	39.4	43.6	49.6	55.6	59.1	63.4	65.6	64.7	60.1	
1975	Mil. lb.	54.2	52.1	51.0	46.7	42.8	44.7	47.8	52.1	51.9	51.0	46.6	42.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	36.3	31.7	28.6	29.3	28.9								
Shell eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	34	23	42	59	66	86	89	95	78	70	73	52	
1975	1,000 cs.	36	32	48	32	26	68	82	84	80	72	55	40	
1976	1,000 cs.	22	13	21	26	24								
Shell equivalent of all eggs														
1974	1,000 cs.	1,128	978	946	1,056	1,169	1,341	1,496	1,591	1,683	1,730	1,711	1,574	
1975	1,000 cs.	1,408	1,350	1,340	1,214	1,110	1,200	1,291	1,402	1,393	1,364	1,235	1,108	
1976	1,000 cs.	940	817	747	767	755								
Tables 68-69.—Cold storage holdings of poultry, first of the month														
Total frozen														
Turkey														
1974	Mil. lb.	281.0	274.0	250.5	235.9	225.0	227.4	265.8	335.8	431.8	528.7	554.6	372.0	
1975	Mil. lb.	275.0	267.1	239.9	207.3	180.2	162.7	193.2	248.6	328.3	409.8	472.4	286.2	
1976	Mil. lb.	195.2	187.1	159.9	140.0	115.3								
Chicken														
Hens														
1974	Mil. lb.	47.2	43.9	40.4	44.4	46.5	53.1	57.6	62.7	64.8	61.3	60.0	55.1	
1975	Mil. lb.	54.0	55.7	55.6	56.6	59.1	57.1	56.9	54.3	52.9	49.1	44.7	41.6	
1976	Mil. lb.	39.2	34.7	31.4	29.4	32.7								
Broilers, fryers and roasters														
1974	Mil. lb.	33.4	32.5	32.6	34.6	33.8	37.5	36.6	34.3	34.2	35.4	36.3	37.0	
1975	Mil. lb.	37.2	31.5	32.9	28.0	27.8	24.1	22.6	21.7	22.5	22.7	21.9	21.5	
1976	Mil. lb.	22.3	20.2	19.4	18.9	19.2								
Tables 70-71.—Exports of fresh or frozen poultry														
Broilers														
1974	Thou. lb.	11,159	9,672	13,610	9,511	8,106	8,014	13,272	8,890	8,179	8,650	7,886	8,413	115,340
1975	Thou. lb.	10,268	9,841	9,003	11,620	12,695	11,858	10,851	11,931	10,615	13,046	11,483	13,720	137,731
1976	Thou. lb.	16,263	12,881	16,254	17,226									
Turkeys														
1974	Thou. lb.	4,386	3,477	4,732	2,195	2,770	3,574	2,897	2,788	1,924	4,108	3,664	3,078	39,594
1975	Thou. lb.	1,384	2,551	2,979	2,952	2,851	3,807	4,389	4,023	5,293	7,139	5,368	4,507	47,244
1976	Thou. lb.	5,135	5,993	7,719	3,958									
Tables 72-75.—USDA contracts to purchase chicken, and turkey														
Young chickens, ready-to-cook wt.														
1974	Mil. lb.	9.3	8.7	---	---	---	---	1.9	3.5	3.0	6.5	7.1	7.9	47.9
1975	Mil. lb.	3.8	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	7.3	6.8	7.0	5.2	30.0
1976	Mil. lb.	7.6	7.3	8.4	---	---								
Canned boned chicken														
1974	Doz. cans	193.8	193.8	---	---	---	---	91.8	234.6	224.4	163.2	13.6	---	1,115.1
1975	Doz. cans	---	---	---	---	---	105.4	---	---	57.8	88.4	105.4	336.6	693.5
1976	Doz. cans	231.2	133.5	112.2	---	---								
Canned boney turkey														
1974	Doz. cans	95.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	95.2
1975	Doz. cans	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1976	Doz. cans	---	---	---	---	---								
Turkey, ready-to-cook wt.														
1974	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---	---	9.3	3.1	15.8	9.5	3.7	9.8	51.4
1975	Mil. lb.	2.2	---	---	---	---	---	---	2.1	6.9	10.4	---	---	21.6
1976	Mil. lb.	---	---	---	---	---								

[1] Chicken and turkey meat, excludes slaughter on farms. [2] Excludes farm slaughter, lard and rendered pork fat. [3] Price reported as a price at mid-month. [4] Reported by Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prices are collected on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday of the week that includes the first Tuesday of the month. [5] Includes price for Grade AA eggs in Anchorage, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Francisco, and Seattle, and Grade AA and ungraded eggs in some small cities. [6] Weighted average price to volume buyers for Consumer Grade A white eggs in cartons delivered to store door. [7] Prices paid by first receivers for cartoned Grade A eggs delivered FOB Midwestern cities. Prior to January 1974, reported as average price paid delivered to Chicago, loose, white, minimum 80 percent A. [8] Trucklot sales of U.S. Grade A and plant grade ready-to-cook, ice-packed broiler-fryers. [9] Computed by weighting the city averages by their metropolitan area populations. The 9 cities are: Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and San Francisco. [10] Pounds of broiler grower equal in value to 1 lb. of broiler liveweight. [11] Pounds of turkey grower equal in value to 1 lb. of turkey liveweight. [12] Pounds of laying feed equal in value to 1 dozen eggs. [13] Placements reported by leading breeders. [14] Sum of domestic placements 7-14 months previous.

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